Board of Commissioners
Office: (541) 766-6800
Fax: (541) 766-6893
205 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
co.benton.or.us

AGENDA

(Chair May Alter the Agenda)

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, November 16, 2021

GoToMeeting: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/379235181
or Dial 1 (669) 224-3412***; Access Code*** 379-235-181#
Livestream: ***http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov***

8:00 A.M.

I. Opening:

A. Introductions
B. Announcements

II. Comments from the Public

Time restrictions may be imposed on public comment, dependent on the business before the Board of Commissioners. Individual comment may be limited to three minutes.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

IV. Executive Session

4.1 Negotiations for Property Transactions pursuant to ORS 192.660[2][e]

4.2 Consider the Employment of a Public Officer pursuant to ORS 192.660[2][a]

V. Departmental Requests and Reports

5.1 Discussion to Consider Filling Vacant CHC Director Position – *Tracy Martineau, Human Resources Director*

5.2 Timeline Discussion and Update on the Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP) – *Nick Kurth, JSIP Manager*

VI. Other

ORS 192.640(1)" . . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects."

The Board of Commissioners may call an executive session when necessary pursuant to ORS 192.660. The Board is not required to provide advance notice of an executive session. However, every effort will be made to give notice of an executive session. If an executive session is the only item on the agenda for the Board meeting, notice shall be given as for all public meetings (ORS 192.640(2)) and the notice shall state the specific reason for the executive session as required by ORS 192.660.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Board of Commissioners Office, (541) 766-6800.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GoToMeeting link: *https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/379235181*
Livestream: *http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov*
Tuesday, November 16, 2021
8:00 a.m.

Present: **Xanthippe Augerot,** Chair; **Nancy Wyse,** Commissioner; **Pat Malone,** Commissioner; **Vance Croney,** County Counsel; **Joe Kerby,** County Administrator

Staff: **Rick Crager,** Finance Services; **Teresa Farley, Lili'a Uili,** BOC Staff; **Nick Kurth,** Justice Systems Improvement Program; **Tracy Martineau,** Human Resources; **Erika Milo,** BOC Recorder; **Alyssa Rash,** Public Information Officer; **Jef Van Arsdall,** Sheriff

Guests: **Carol Bujwit,** Community Health Center Board; **Geoffrey Hollander**, **Ginny Katz,** Oregon State University; **Gary Pond**, real estate broker; **Curt Wright**, marketing communications consultant

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

I. Opening:
A. Introductions
B. Announcements

No announcements were made.

II. Comments from the Public

William Rabe, resident: As a hazard risk consultant, Rabe reviews large chemical plants regarding natural hazards and emergency response. Concerning the Justice Systems Improvement Program (JSIP) South site, Highway 99-West and Avery Park bridges over the Marys River and the elevated roadway over 99-W do not appear to be reinforced for earthquakes. That area is also in the flood hazard zone. Siting a Justice Center and Emergency Operations in south Corvallis means emergency resources from the south could be blocked, preventing timely response to approximately 90% of Benton County's population which lives north of the Marys River. East-west roads to Bellfountain Road are also in the flood plain. The Justice Center should be north of the Marys River, with multiple routes to various parts of the county. South Corvallis also has largest amount of open land for future development. Putting a jail there, especially without a courthouse, would decrease the potential for future residential and commercial development in the area.

Another resident expressed concern about the South site's proximity to Riverbend Park and Lincoln School.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda under Item IV Executive Session:

4.3 Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiations

IV. Executive Session

Chair Augerot recessed the meeting at 8:13 a.m.

Chair Augerot reconvened the meeting at 8:15 a.m. and immediately entered Executive Session under:

4.1 Negotiations for Property Transactions pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Estate

4.2 Consider the Employment of a Public Officer pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) – Employment of a Public Officer

4.3 Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiations

Chair Augerot exited Executive Session at 9:09 a.m. and immediately resumed the regular Board Meeting.

V. Departmental Reports and Requests

5.1 Discussion to Consider Filling Vacant Community Health Centers (CHC) Director Position – *Tracy Martineau, Human Resources Director*

Augerot explained that after a search process for a new Linn-Benton CHC Executive Director, the CHC Board recommended Interim Director Carla Jones.

Bujwit requested that the Board approve Carla Jones for the position.

MOTION: Wyse moved to recommend Carla Jones for the position of CHC director effective December 2, 2021. Malone seconded the motion, which **passed 3-0.**

5.2 Timeline Discussion and Update on the Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP) – *Nick Kurth, JSIP Manager*

Kurth discussed the possibility of a bond date of May 2023 instead of November 2022. Today's Executive Session (ES) discussed property acquisition. Next week, the Board will discuss the Historic Courthouse (HCH) and whether to keep the District Attorney (DA) there or relocate to a new Courthouse (NCH). Another ES on November 29, 2021 will discuss property acquisition. On November 30, 2021, the Board will decide about the South site, followed by an ES. On November 7, 2021, the NCH funding model will be determined. The HCH/DA decision drives how the County repurposes the HCH, which also relates to how to fund the NCH State matching funds. The State is ready to re-engage on the NCH funding agreement and needs to know how many bonds will be sold. The Board must also choose a site.

Kurth compared pros and cons of a May 2023 bond date versus a November 2022 date. November cons include the timing of tax bills and the complexity of a general election; November 2022 is a midterm election for all House seats and many Senate seats. In November 2018, 77% of ballots were cast, versus 38% in a special election; costs are much greater for a general election. A May 2023 bond date allows more time for site selection, research, and engagement.

Malone noted that November 2022 is also the Governor's election, which could increase participation.

Wright noted that creates one more point of heightened voter interest in something other than JSIP. The less attention money matters get, the more likely that less-informed voters will vote no, as that is the easy decision.

Kurth observed that upcoming elections also include many mayoral and gubernatorial races. The biggest disadvantage of a May 2023 bond measure is project cost escalation. John Bales, DLR Group cost consultant, estimated potential cost escalation of 19.2% with a May 2023 bond date. Each additional year could add at least 6.5%. Currently, building goods and other supply chains are severely impacted by shortages. The $50 million Correctional Facility will now cost $60 million. The County intended to ask for a $100 million bond, but now needs a $120 million bond even with no program changes. Such costs are hard to predict. Kurth placed reliance on the consultant and felt that DLR is conservative in its estimates to avoid having a bond pass that does not cover expenditures. County staff examined initial costing twice; Sheriff's Office staff reviewed the options carefully. Kurth considers these numbers accurate.

Malone felt that predictions have not been very accurate in the past two years; the situation could change in the County's favor. Long-term interest rates when borrowing will have a big impact on total costs, and look favorable so far. The first priority is passing the measure. Many community member emails request that the Board take more time to consider the decision.

Kurth agreed. These numbers are large. In 2020, DLR's cost escalation estimate with an April 2023 start date was 1.1%; an April 2024 start was 3.7%. Another disadvantage of a May 2023 bond date is that City of Philomath School District 17J has a local option levy renewal on that date. Kurth asked Philomath officials to reconsider that date, but was refused. Kurth asked the Board whether to pursue the discussion. The election would be right before 17J's current levy expires; Kurth suggested some advantages to the District of holding the levy renewal early.

Malone opined that chances of success are much greater with an election in May 2023 than November 2022. A November date entails the cost of communicating to twice as many voters. Malone encouraged Kurth to continue the Philomath discussion.

Wyse felt comfortable having Kurth work with 17J if the Board chooses May 2023. Wyse asked about other cons if the Board continues to target November, then decides later to move the date, as opposed to deciding on 2023, then going back to November.

Kurth replied that the timing is fundamental to engagement strategy and affects how long the Board has to select a site. It is better to have a known goal. Preparation for each date would be different. Kurth would not want to pursue such a strategy.

Augerot added that pushing the date back could cause problems with the NCH State matching Courthouse Capital Cost Construction & Improvement funds. Augerot agreed with Malone that May 2023 makes more sense. The price escalation is alarming, but improved facilities and programs require hard decisions.

Wyse was concerned about the $20 million cost increase with the later date.

Malone questioned the accuracy of the cost prediction. If the bond is unlikely to succeed in November 2022, the cost is somewhat irrelevant.

Kerby noted that if the bond is delayed to May 2023 and prices escalate, prioritizing the facilities becomes even more important; one facility might have to be canceled to offset rising costs.

Wright felt the delay gives Rash an opportunity to tell the community that despite possible major cost increases, the Board thinks it is worth delaying in order to do the best possible job of connecting the campus to the JSIP plan. This might be an advantage in the Philomath conversation, which could include Philomath elected officials or former officials.

Kurth agreed that is a viable strategy.

Malone agreed that more time provides more opportunity for community engagement. The public needs to be reminded of information from the earlier Criminal Justice Assessment.

Kurth asked Crager how much a six month delay would affect borrowing rates and activities.

Crager met with Mary Otley (former Chief Financial Officer), the County's financial advisor, and one of the underwriters on November 12, 2021 regarding the $20 million in State courthouse bonds. This is a prime time for borrowing. Low rates could last for some time. Staff will monitor rates.

Malone compared rates in 2020 when the County purchased the Kalapuya Building. Through all this uncertainty, long-term rates haven't changed that much in the past 18 months.

Crager can explore rate predictions in more depth with the underwriters.

Kerby recommended that the Board only provide direction today, saving a formal action (in the form of a resolution) for later if needed.

The Board expressed support for a JSIP bond measure date of May 2023.

VI. Other

No other business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Augerot adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Erika Milo, Recorder

** NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.*

Benton County

BUILDING A JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX
NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Accountability and treatment to transform lives, ensure safety and strengthen community

Benton County
OREGON

Nick Kurth, Manager
Justice System Improvement Program
Benton County
4077 SW Research Way | Corvallis, OR 97333
Tel: 541-766-6076

Benton County

BUILDING A JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX | NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Speaking Engagement and Small Group Meeting Summaries	3
Questionnaire #1 Results	13
Questionnaire #2 Results	31
Questions and Answers	50

Appendix A: Speaking Engagement & Small Group Meeting Summaries

Public outreach on the Justice System Improvement Program began with Small Group Conversations and Speaking Engagements with key stakeholders. Following a short powerpoint presentation introducing the needs and goals of the program, participants were asked to rate the importance of each facility, weigh in on where the new Courthouse should be located (downtown or suburban location), and share their preference for the future use of the Historic Courthouse. Appendix A includes summaries of these conversations and Appendix B provides the results of the post-meeting online questionnaire sent to participants.

The County conducted 26+ small group conversations and speaking engagements between July and October 2021. Meeting summaries of the major engagements are listed in the following pages. For most meetings, the presenter was program manager Nick Kurth and the facilitator was Public Information Officer Alyssa Rash. Staff attending the larger presentations included Danielle Brown, Sheriff Jeff Van Arsdall, Captain John Devaney, and Joe Kerby.

Municipalities and Oregon State University
Participants: 12 (Two meetings: 7/26/21 and 8/4/21, and Corvallis City Council on 9/21/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Multiple participants favor the Crisis Center and Correctional Facility, including OSU representatives and Corvallis City Councilors
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Participants expressed concerns with parking, transportation impacts, and how the project will impact the development of future housing
    - One participant favors downtown location
    - Several comments encourage use of transit regardless of what site is chosen
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - One participant would like to maintain the Courthouse as is
    - One participant thinks the Historic Courthouse should be upgraded and repurposed for the public
    - Two attendees do not wish to keep the Historic Courthouse in the justice system
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Wants more precise locations
    - Multiple questions and concerns regarding tax impacts of bond

Key quotes/comments:

- Even if we have a few dozen more beds, it'd get a lot of the habitual offenders out of circulation.
- I would encourage any of the sites, especially the west and south sites to prioritize transit. It's unfortunate for parking to drive development.
- To the extent that we could continue with industrial use in South, we might be able to preserve space on the west side for future housing.
- As I look at overall costs, it will be less costly to build everything all in one location in less phases.

Behavioral Health and Social Service Providers
Participants: 26 (Three meetings: Health and Social Service Providers on 8/12/21 and 8/19/21 and MHADDAC on 9/7/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - One participant was curious about parking accessibility
    - Two participants ordered the importance of each facility as: Crisis Center, Correctional Facility, Courthouse and then Sheriff/Emergency Management
    - Multiple participants agreed that youths/teens should have access to Crisis Center
    - Concerns about the capacity of Correctional Facility
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - One participant is not in favor of co-locating the Courthouse and Crisis Center
    - Participants asked questions about transportation and future development
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - Two participants mentioned upgrading the Historic Courthouse
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Multiple participants would like clarification on the site selection process

Key Quotes/comments

- Best connection between programs and facilities I have seen. That is the hook for me and many others. Good job.
- I believe a "Benton-Best" model can benefit people with Developmental Disabilities in other counties. That is something we can specialize.
- The EOC is essential. As we look at the climate crisis and pandemic, there's more and more likelihood that we need EOCs that are very viable for the community.
- Transportation is a big issue. A lot of my clients would have a long bus ride if it's in the south or west site.
- What HOPE hears is that people living in the South feel that people are being dumped in their area.

Living Southtown
Participants: 4 (7/29/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - **Corrections Facility:**
        - High need due to the number of people released from existing jail
        - When deciding on the size of the jail, the analysts based the beds on communities of similar size. But the U.S. has the highest number of incarcerated citizens, so I'm not convinced that we aren't over-incarcerating people.
    - Crisis Center services are in demand and not currently available to residents
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Preference for Concepts 1 and 3
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**

- Multiple participants favored option 2; upgrade for public access

4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Discussion about transportation facilities, transit
    - Benefits of downtown facilities
    - Multiple concerns about flooding on the South site, impacts on emergency services

Key quotes/comments

- Good Sam has cut their mental health facilities drastically. If someone is in crisis, there's nowhere for them to go right now.
- The Courthouse is a showpiece for our county and we've got to protect it. It would be nice if we had public access to it.
- Southtown residents feel like we constantly get the short end of the stick. I'm also not sure that putting a facility with a lot of parking is going to spur development of amenities... I'd like to see as many facilities as possible downtown, because I think that's best for everyone.
- When you bring these facilities out towards the West edge, you're bringing these services closer to the rest of Benton County.

Corvallis Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Corvallis Association
Participants: 21 (Two meetings: 8/18/21 and 9/3/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Two participants agreed that the Crisis Center is most important
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Participants agreed it should be located downtown
    - Building a new Courthouse was favored
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - No specific responses noted.
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - A few individuals wondered whether the Board of Commissioners' Office building could be replaced with new facilities
    - One individual suggested that one site provides the opportunity to centralize security and safety
    - What happens if the bond doesn't pass?

Key quotes/comments

- Everyone recognizes the need, but we go back to location. Where is it going to go?
- Is there a detox facility included in this overall plan?
- Seeing the options for justice system facility buildings helped me realize it's not just concrete and barbed wire.
- The operational efficiencies of a system-focused, campus plan are definitely important in the overall cost impact.
- It's important to have a viable, healthy downtown.
- I recommend centralizing security for as many people as possible. One site makes sense; same staff for several uses would be efficient.

Visit Corvallis

Participants: 12 (9/23/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Attendees see the need for both more treatment options and accountability (jail beds)
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - No verbal comments
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - Interest in repurposing the historic courthouse outside of the justice system
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Why did past measures fail, how is this measure different?

West Hills Neighborhood Association
Participants: 30 (7/26/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Curious about how the DA office space will be utilized
    - Crisis Center and Correctional Facility
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Multiple individuals stated the Courthouse should remain downtown
    - Concerns about children's safety in relation to the Courthouse location in West Corvallis
    - Transportation and infrastructure concerns
    - Concern about property tax increase
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - The Historic Courthouse is a part of Corvallis' culture and ambiance; should be preserved
    - Take ADA accessibility into consideration
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - A few individuals are worried about incarcerated people being released into their neighborhoods

Key quotes/comments

- 110% the Courthouse needs to be downtown. It's our civic life and supports other jobs down there. Concern about protests occurring downtown, out of site.
- There is a thread on NextDoor going on about property taxes. There's a lot of people agitated about how much their property tax would go up.
- It's a beautiful structure, I think though that it has better purposes. There are a lot of people in the area and around the country who would be interested in making this a feature and not a function.
- As the mom of someone who is disabled, it's obviously a real issue. At the very least it needs to be ADA accessible.

- West Corvallis is lacking the basic amenities that other areas in the city have in place. If you can, please take West Corvallis residents to take those amenities into account. Specifically multi-use paths and infrastructure upgrades to enhance safety in the area.

Linn-Benton League of Women Voters
Total Participants: 24 (9/20/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - One participant ranked each facility in the following order: Crisis Center, Courthouse Sheriff/Emergency Operations Center, Jail
    - One participant believes each facility is equally important
    - The Emergency Operations Center needs a lot of space due to covid, but that is a 100-year event. How do you plan for a reasonable amount of space under normal circumstances?
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Multiple participants favor the downtown location
    - Multiple participants are concerned about transportation
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - No comments regarding the Historic Courthouse
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Will the County need to increase their health and safety measure to fund staffing?
    - One participant is curious about how much it will cost to have an individual in jail
    - One participant mentioned they would like to see an investment in reducing houselessness to help reduce the needs for these facilities and services.
    - A participant is curious about how the County is investing funding in preventative measure

Key quotes/comments:
- I am concerned that the Crisis Center is receiving such a low proportion of the estimated cost.
- How is this related to people with disabilities and their safety in the community?

HOPE (Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity) Advisory Board
Total Participants: approximately 15 (9/22/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Lots of interest in prevention of justice system involvement and support for abating the revolving door through in-custody treatment
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Preference for Courthouse to be downtown
    - Concerns about accessibility to both suburban locations
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
4. **Other comments/questions**

- Concerns about operational funding – how will the County pay for running a 120-bed facility?

NAACP Executive Committee and Political Action Committee
Participants: 14 (9/21/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
   - Multiple comments in support of the Crisis Center as a priority. Question: why is the cost so much less than the other facilities?
   - Will you be tracking the incarceration of people by race or ethnicity? Recommend reading the book "The New Jim Crow" which focuses on the over-incarceration of BIPOC individuals.
   - A large portion of the funds will go towards the new Correctional Facility. How did you arrive at the 120 bed facility?
   - What does local crime look like? Are we talking about housing violent crimes or property/poverty-related crimes?
   - When police respond to people having a mental health crisis… in some communities there are a separate number to call. Has there been any discussion on that?
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
   - Can you speak to the benefits or drawbacks of having the Crisis Center co-located near the Courthouse?
   - Economic impacts and benefits:
     - Have you considered economic benefit to locating on the South site? I am in favor of this.
     - If this is passed and funded, I'm strongly in favor of Concept 3a or 3b. With the transit center and other economic drivers, this would bring more economic growth.
   - Multiple comments regarding the value of accessible public transport.
     - The courthouse should be easily accessible by bus and bike. I know that would be the case for the downtown location, is it also the case for either other location?
   - Are there any pros or cons for the west or south site for the Emergency Operations Center or Sheriff's Office in terms of response times?
   - If the city is looking long term, It seem precarious to pay more money for a slot of land that has flooded in the past (and perhaps with climate change will flood more in the future).
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?** (Not asked due to time)
4. **Other Comments/Questions**
   - How closely does BCSO and CPD work with Joe Hahn? Could you give an example of how that relationship looks?
   - Does CPD and BCSO track the number of people incarcerated by race or ethnicity? If so, do they look at trends or just snapshots?
   - If this bond is passed, regardless of where is may be, it is critically important to the NAACP that funds are directly set aside for education and treatment, specifically to support the re-entry of incarcerated adults back into society.

Key Quotes/comments:

- The new Jim Crow is a book that everyone who works in Justice should read. Instead of Jim Crow laws, what we have is over incarceration of BIPOC individuals. Will you be tracking the incarceration of people by race or ethnicity?
- If this bond is passed, regardless of where is may be, it is critically important to the NAACP that funds are directly set aside for education and treatment, specifically to support the re-entry of incarcerated adults back into society.

Grand Oaks Homeowners
Participants: 80+ (9/29/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - A participant is concerned about the amount of resources being put towards the Crisis Center
    - One participant is concerned about transportation
    - One participant stated that the current jail population is related to homelessness. They are curious as to why the Crisis Center, rehab and homeless shelter funding is going towards a new jail
    - A participant suggested repurposing existing buildings that are located downtown or in Sunset Park
    - One participant is curious about the cost per inmate if facilities are rented vs. the cost per inmate housed in the brand new jail
    - One participant is curious about the number of beds that the proposed jail will have
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?** (Answer in chat)
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?** (Answers in chat)
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - We have a series of questions about community safety:
        - Will adults in custody be released in front of the jail into an area with no resources and very limited transportation?
        - What will the effect of releasing adults in custody be doing to the bald hill natural area, the fairgrounds, and tailgating/shuttle for beaver football games?
        - What is the neighborhood lockdown plans when you have an armed escapee? Sirens, texts, phone calls?
        - Are you going to provide transportation to the Crisis Center from the jail for people whose primary “crimes” are being unhoused or having drug issues? Or are you going to release them ten miles away in an area a mile from even the nearest bus stop?
    - How does the proposed location for the jail serve the justice--involved individuals who will stay and be released there? How does it serve attorneys, court staff, and the transport deputies who will work in the jail?
    - Why are the site locations near residential neighborhoods? Why not out by the airport? Why not keep it downtown by renovating space? Why not some other industrial area?
    - Corvallis is a small city. Is it necessary to have all those functions within the city?

- Will having the courthouse miles from the jail with limited public transport help with the failure to appear issue?
- There are no arterial roads from downtown to the proposed west campus on 53rd. Wouldn't it be better for response times and transport needs to locate it on hwy 99?
- Can you provide us with an accurate study about the reduction of property values when a new center is built (not when existing centers are improved in existing locations)?
- Could you address how much light will be coming from the facility at night, possible increase in sirens, ambulances, jail vehicles and other noise impacts?
- How long would the average sentence for people being incarcerated in this jail be?
- What percentage of our currently incarcerated people are in for violent crimes?
- What distance is required from an elementary school? Is it less than a marijuana store?
- How will you address the issues we already have with people walking on the rail tracks and getting injured? It seems like that will be a common path from this facility.
- Are we planning to offer transportation help and coordination to help people with “failure to appear” charges as part of this overhaul?
- Were any sites in North Corvallis considered?
- So where exactly will the buildings be?
- Are crime rates equal in Linn and Benton?
- Is a higher incarceration rate better?
- How much does the new facility cost? plus the budget for additional staffing?
- You mentioned visitations... How long is an average stay in jail?
- What percentage of people we’re incarcerating are in for “criminal trespass” and drug issues that will eventually be served by the Crisis Center and not put into the justice system at all?
- It seems that downtown, with public transportation, courthouse / law office access, and other service locations (homeless shelter, CHANCE Recovery, churches serving food, etc) would be more ideal for the individuals who will be visiting, staying in, and working at the new jail.
- Will inmates be released directly from this facility?
- Follow up Q from someone else: The Mary's Annexation's traffic report showed the infrastructure is already unsustainable if the development goes through there. How would this add to the traffic, and what mitigation plans are in the works, particularly given that these two projects would have completion dates around the same time?
- If recidivism is indeed a problem, then it would seem that offenders are (indeed) released into the community. Thus, what would make you think that releasing inmates into/adjacent to Grand Oaks is a good idea?
- Currently the response to criminal trespass (which ranges from a middle-aged woman who was arrested for refusing to leave the hospital in the rain after treatment to a 64-year-old man arrested for sleeping in a bus shelter and more) is to pick them up, cite them and release them at the jail. Is that going to continue to happen?
- Do you really plan to hold everyone you arrest for criminal trespass?

- Given that the bond measure has already failed three times, do you feel you are jeopardizing funding for what is likely to be a very popular Crisis Center by packaging it with a very unpopular jail measure?
- Why is funding for the jail, which has been notoriously unsuccessful, tied to funding for a Crisis Center and homeless shelter we desperately need and want?
- How many of these facilities [shown on screen], such as Washington and Colorado, are next to neighborhoods with families having children?
- What is the projected drop in criminal charges once the Crisis Center is in place to keep people out of jail?
- If Napa County can rebuild their historic courthouse after a destructive earthquake with no cost to residents, why can't Benton?
- What is the plan to compensate for the property value reduction?
- Why does the Crisis Center ask only $5M, which is 1/10th of the $50m ask for the jail? What does this say about county priorities?
- Re: projected costs. We are just coming out of one of the steepest spikes of construction costs associated with the pandemic and prices are starting to calm down. I hope they will continue to do so. Was this estimate obtained during this time 2020-2021? Is it possible we will come down a bit closer to the $25M for the correctional facility for example?
- Can you provide us with the study or data summary that recommends a 120-bed correctional facility for Benton County?
- How will you pay for the shuttle service?
- Why do you propose to place these facilities so near GO, Bald Hill, and the Fairgrounds? Are there not properties where there is a lower residential population and fewer high-use recreational areas?
- Are you going to expand the roads around this to prevent traffic pile up? Just running a bus up 52nd is going to back traffic up. Only one lane.
- What problems do nearby neighborhoods in other communities experience when a new facility like this is built? I'm concerned about increased crime in my neighborhood (grand oaks). What do you have planned to address these issues?
- What have you done to address the Downtown Business Owners associations objections to the most reasonable location for these facilities (downtown)?
- What is the plan for when the Bond Measure fails?
- Is this being driven by an effort to pacify the downtown property owners or refusal on their part to sell empty properties downtown? What about the mostly empty commercial building across the street from the courthouse?
- Do you think the university will support this proposal when inmates will be walking or taking the bus through campus to reach downtown?
- You mentioned issues of zoning compatibility. So, you propose to put a jail next to a neighborhood full of young families with children. How does that not represent "zoning compatibility?"
- Why couldn't current jail space be renovated, with donated properties downtown used for other centers?
- Can the old courthouse be deconstructed and reconstructed somewhere else in the county (as a museum, maybe?), so that the land could be used to build a new Sheriff's office +jail + emergency center + Election's office + DA's office? It

would also be close to the new Crisis Center. With the old courthouse gone, there is no height restriction downtown.

- Can the city not do ANYTHING about literal empty buildings being withheld when we need the space for services?
- I also agree with Jane: why do you propose to place these facilities so near GO, Bald Hill, and the Fairgrounds? Are there not properties where there is a lower residential population and fewer high-use recreational areas?
- Did the Data include proximity to quiet peaceful neighborhoods and the impact to their residents and property values?
- How much will it cost to transport them where they need to go?
- Will inmates' families be able to visit them easily when the jail is located on a remote bus line?

Appendix B: Online Questionnaire #1 Results

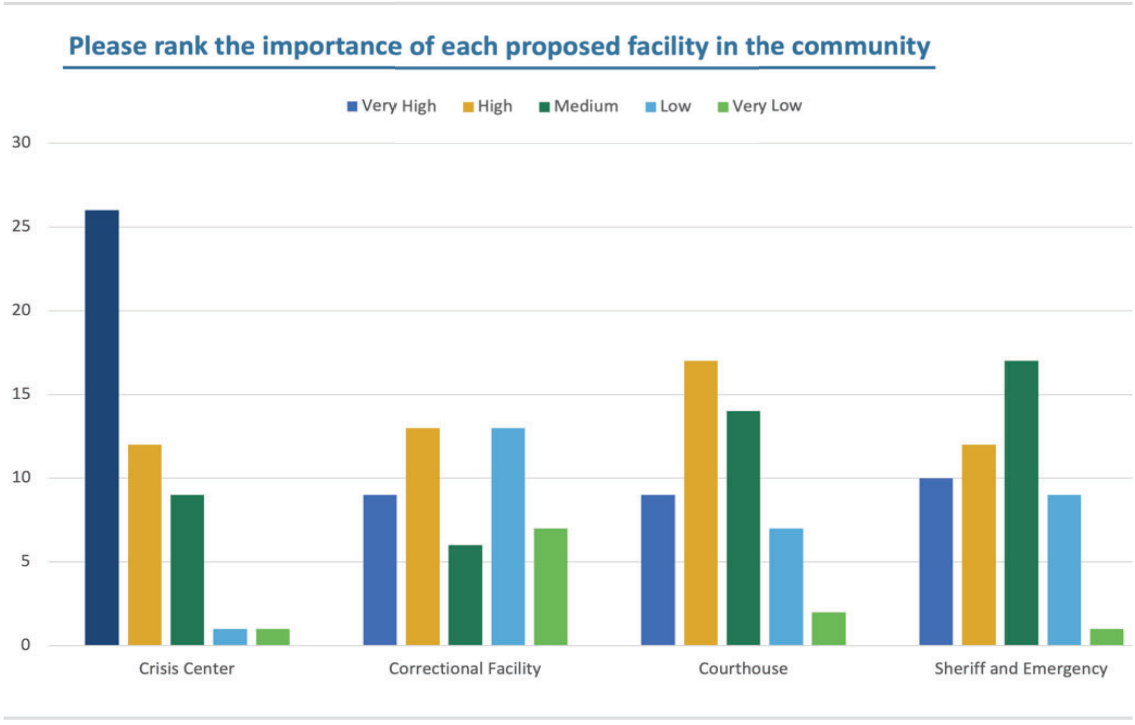
Public outreach on the Justice System Improvement Program began with small group conversations and speaking engagements with key stakeholders, and then moved toward a conversation with the broader public. On September 8 the County held a Virtual Community Meeting attended by 79 people.

Participants in all these meetings were asked to rate the importance of each facility, weigh in on where the new Courthouse should be located (downtown or suburban location), and share their preference for the future use of the Historic Courthouse. Appendix B provides the results of the post-meeting online questionnaire sent to participants:

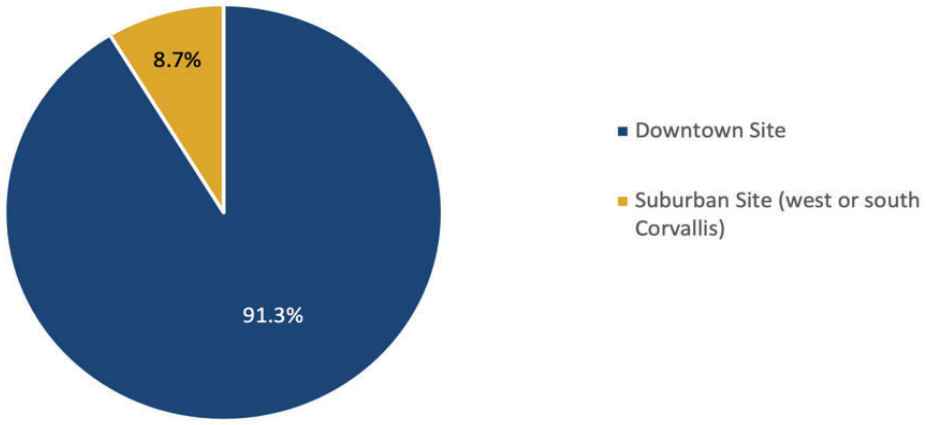
Small Group Conversations & Speaking Engagements……Page 13
September 8 Virtual Community Meeting……..Page 24

Small Group and Speaking Engagement Questionnaire #1 Results

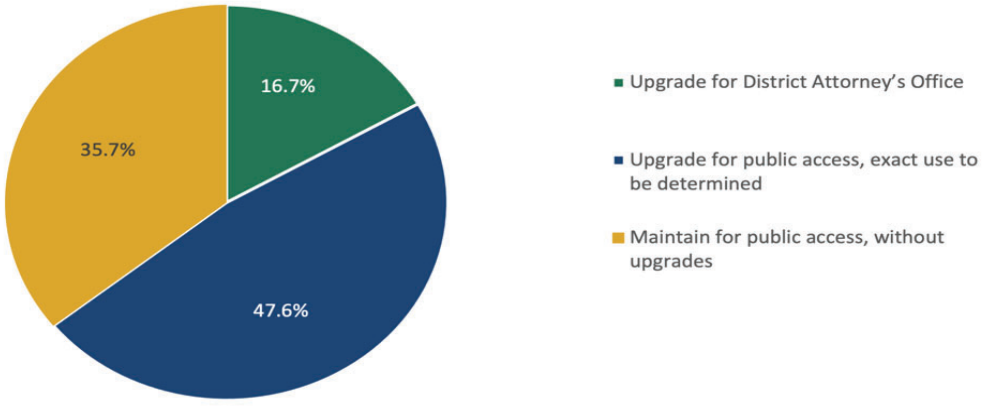
The County provided follow-up online questionnaires for participants of speaking engagements. Respondents primarily included participants from the League of Women Voters, the H.O.P.E. Advisory board, Grand Oaks Homeowners, and the NAACP Corvallis/Albany Branch. The following graphs represent the results from all the questionnaires, and the subsequent comments in the table on page 12 are grouped by speaking engagement.



One of the proposed new facilities is a new Courthouse. Where should the new Courthouse be located?



The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. Which option do you prefer?



Do you have additional comments or concerns about the proposed facilities?
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
Please keep these facilities downtown.
Location near established neighborhood results in property value declines, increases in safety and crime, noise, light pollution, etc.
All these facilities should be located downtown.
Like all my neighbors, I am HORRIFIED at the proposal to put a JAIL right next to all our houses. They pay NO attention to the plunge in property values we will suffer, not to mention the danger.
The west side site directly adjacent to a neighborhood is NOT the answer. Commissioners are not winning friends in the Grand Oaks neighborhood tonight. The bond measure has been turned down repeatedly in my 25 years in Corvallis. This is not a good start.
If the courthouse stays downtown, does the correctional facility still need to be within Corvallis urban growth boundary?
Please do not locate this near any residential community, specifically adjacent to Grand Oaks
Don't site a jail adjacent to a residential (zone) area.
Putting these facilities next to a high-density residential area is unthinkable. Construction noise and traffic will reduce quality of life. Property values will decline. Children and university students use the bike path nearby. You are already planning on putting in a huge subdivision between 53rd and SW West Hills. The environmental impact of these changes, plus the loss of habitat at The Retreat will be devastating.
Facilities for detaining and eventually releasing convicted individuals should not be located adjacent to an existing residential neighborhood.
Poor presentation. No ability to offer input, questions were not answered just placated. What an embarrassment to our community. The concept of putting this obscene complex and dirty work in a neighborhood demonstrates your complete lack of community planning and understanding of where to place structures and government buildings. So much poor work and leadership from the county staff to our sheriff to the country supervisor. Poor showing of how to build a community and treat the tax paying public that you are supposed to serve. You've been sold a sack of crap by interest groups, realtors, a design firm.... Horrible and unforgivable. Expect strong push back on the bond.
The south site is the best option. Access to Hwy 99, access to services, and space to add additional features.
No. These facilities are the correct priorities.
The west site location is completely unacceptable due to its proximity to residential areas, the fairgrounds, and bald hill natural area. It almost no transportation other than a bus line, and the roads around it are already at capacity. It is not a suitable location and should no longer be considered.
This might seem like a silly concern/question, but what's the area like around the current jail? Do people who are released hang out around the building? Is crime higher in that area than in the surrounding area?

Locating the jail right up against a family residential area, Grand Oaks, is a terrible idea, no matter how "efficient" it seems to planners. Traffic is already congested, plus impact on neighborhood safety.
While I believe that the facilities are very important, and I vote for a new jail when last on the ballot, the placement of them near a large, family-oriented development/apartments/condos, other residences and trailer park, Bald Hill, and Fairgrounds (both high-usage, family-oriented resources) is highly objectionable and untenable. It would bring greater traffic and noise to the area, distract from the beauty and peace of Bald Hill, be a burden on public transportation (and another increase of cost to taxpayers to cover this), and bring increased crime to the area. No matter what we were told last night, as a CASA I know some of the jail inmates and their families and their propensity for burglary, car theft and violence. It's naive to think that when families visit their relatives/inmates or when inmates are released, they'll ignore the houses nearby and just leave the area. Inviting them into our neighborhood places us at risk. The facilities should either be located downtown (much more convenient for attorneys and the public to attend hearings, etc. at courthouse, to visit clients/family in jail, for access to services by clients of the crisis center), or in a more remote location with few residences and other high-use resources for the general population.
I am not in favor of the West Site location
I understand that our community needs to rebuild its justice system, and that there aren't a lot of option considering the downtown businesses resistance to the obvious choice of putting the justice center together in the downtown area. But neither of the other locations are suitable, and I'm disturbed by the readiness of our work group to push ahead on clearly unsatisfactory choices without considering additional infrastructure that they'll need or even acknowledging how problematic they are. I'm also genuinely concerned that spending all this money isn't going to change the behavior of the police and Sheriff's departments regarding our homeless population and that this will simply shift a lot of vulnerable people away from resources into residential and green space areas that have no capacity to help them or provide for them.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
We need to reduce county recidivism and focus on mental health and behavioral health, not pouring funds into a bigger jail. We need more social services.
Courthouse should maintain a central location.
I think the Crisis Center should be sited near the hospital. People brought to the crisis center are most likely going to need medical assistance to help stabilize.
Utilize downtown space for Crisis Services and Courthouse services. Jail and sheriff offices can be centered elsewhere.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Keep courthouse downtown but move CF to suburban location
How will the staff of the crisis center be funded? Does the proposal include a fund for upkeep/maintenance/future improvements?
I know you're looking for a ranking, but I think all 4 are equally important to address at the same time.

NAACP
It is my hope to see real concerns addressed about the homeless population and their unique needs to avoid the Criminal Justice System. More wrap-around support services need to be included in this plan.
Crisis center most important. Trust the skilled mental health workers there can support Jail entry or arrests by Police/Sheriff officers wherever needed.
OTHER GROUPS
The jail is too big. The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world, so comparing to other counties based on population is bogus. It is also immoral that most of our incarcerated people have never been convicted of a crime and must wait months for trial just because they can't post bail.
I appreciated this presentation, but I believe more efforts need to be made to inform the public about the 3 sites being considered for a correctional facility - article on the front page of GT? Several articles in GT? Widely dispersed but also targeted invitations to those Corvallis residents who would be most affected by the siting of a correctional facility. Notices mailed or delivered to residents of all nearby neighborhoods? All the above? In short, more people need to know about this. If a decision is being made by the end of October, I think the site chosen will come as a big surprise to many folks - unless much more is done to notify the public. I would not have known about the possible sites except for a very recent e-mail (Sept. 10) l that landed in my inbox, one I easily could have overlooked.
Though I believe in the need for these facilities, I will not vote for them if you force a jail into our family-friendly residential community, Grand Oaks.
I am a parent with two young children, and I cannot look over the possible safety issue. I might have to move somewhere else if those buildings move in the neighborhood.
Locating a correctional facility near one of the largest, and growing neighborhoods is crazy. The Bond Measure WILL fail.
A correctional facility within 5 miles of any neighborhood is unacceptable. This goes against your own statement of a safe justice system for ALL residents. A facility near any residence puts their safety at risk.
Shocked that you are considering a site directly adjacent to residential houses. Please reconsider.
I am against building the correctional facility near reservoir road as this is near a prime neighborhood (grand oaks), fair grounds, Bald Hill hiking path.
The west site is dumb. The roads can’t handle that, and it is too close to neighborhoods.
The south is an entry to the city, and if the jail is built there it would be the first thing welcoming guests to our city. Even if the jail looks modern and is blocked by another building like the Courthouse, it’s unattractive to have those as the first main thing visitors will see.

Do you have additional comments about the location for the new Courthouse?
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
Co-locate all corrections facilities downtown.

The Courthouse causes protests, and the city hasn't proven it responsible enough to keep drug camps out of public spaces - like the existing courthouse. These things are not appropriate at Bald Hill. Stop this blunder and put the jail at the airport. That is the place for your jail bed rent out scheme you are hatching. Yuk.
Downtown
Downtown has more amenities to support a well-functioning courthouse, which can provide maximum benefits to the citizens. The presence to courthouse will help downtown vitality in return.
Further outside UGB
Having the facilities together seems most beneficial.
I am a CASA. The location should emphasize both easy access for those who use it (attorneys, DHS, CASA, public) and must be ADA compliant with adequate parking. The repeated suggestion last night to relocate the current courthouse and build in its place is absurd. Moving it would be extremely expensive and risk serious damage, it is also the most iconic and historic building in Corvallis and must remain at the center of the city.
Please go back to the drawing board and find a suitable location. The south and west sites (particularly the west site) is almost guaranteed to fail at the ballot box. I really care about this community, keeping people safe, and helping people who need it. This plan will not be successful.
Please keep the Courthouse downtown.
The courthouse needs to be easily reachable from the jail OR we need to have serious transportation services available both to prisoners AND to people with no fixed address who end up sheltering near the jail after releasing due to lack of transportation. But mostly, we need to stop delaying renovations to make our courthouse safe and ADA compliant while we figure out the jail! Which means, ultimately, that the jail needs to stay downtown.
The courthouse should be co-located with the jail at the south site location, with access to Hwy 99, services, and space to grow.
The new courthouse, sheriff's office/emergency center, and correctional facility should be in the space currently occupied by the old courthouse. She's a grand ol' girl, but it's time to relocate her somewhere else and use that valuable real estate to build a multi-story county building to meet the needs of the county for the next 150 years.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
I love the old courthouse, but it's time to tear it down and build a multi-story building to house the Sheriff's office and emergency center, the county correctional facility, the elections office and the DA's office. It's silly to walk away from a prime piece of county-owned real estate because people are rue to remove the old courthouse. If the historical value is worth that much, deconstruct and reconstruct the building somewhere else in the county so it can be a museum.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Please consider the equity and the statement the county would be making by placing the justice system facility in south Corvallis, which is the poorest part of Corvallis and is already blighted with Hollingsworth and Vose.

I'm not sure. I'm inclined to favor downtown because of public transportation. Also, I should have asked but didn't think of it: Will the offices currently located on Research Way move to wherever the new courthouse is?
NAACP
Centrality and accessibility are critical plus keeping civic duties/activities highly and centrally visible is an excellent educational opportunity
It seems the West location would allow more balanced development in South Corvallis and lessen the traffic congestion on Hwy 99.
Leaning toward West Site given the concerns with flooding in S. Site (i.e. can't get into Corvallis during a flood, save by going through airport or Harrisburg). Development of Mary's annexation would add hundreds more houses w/1/2 mile of West site. And bike path through Campus and from N Corvallis goes directly down 53rd (also connects to South bike path running from Corvallis to Philomath).
OTHER GROUPS
I am sorry, but I am not able to answer the question above without further study. My instinct would be to say it should be downtown nearer to the crisis center and various services (transportation and otherwise) OR be farther out in the country, less proximate to large, populated neighborhoods.
We do not approve of a jail being built in any residential neighborhood. There are better locations. We are disappointed in your proposals, though downtown is fine.
I think it being in downtown will offer better accessibility to the community.
I do not believe a new Courthouse is needed. Update what is already there instead of starting over.
Access is limited in south Corvallis and hard to access. Also, there are wetlands, and it floods occasionally making access difficult at times of the year.
No need to relocate, the site is perfect.
We didn't answer because that's the least concerning of the siting discussion.
The south site is the best option. There is no room for supporting services at the west site.
It should not be split from the other buildings. If this investment is made, it would be more efficient to do all at the same site.

Do you have any suggestions or considerations for future use of the Historic Courthouse?
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
If the building is too old/out of code to serve its intended purpose, bulldoze the building and build on the site.
It is of great concerns of locating a jail next to next to an established residential neighborhood whose residents have chosen this neighborhood because it is family-friendly and safe for our children to play outside. This could easily lead to an increase in crime and a decrease in property values.

Museum, science activity to replace the loss of Gear Box to encourage children to learn STEM.
Tear it down and reuse the existing property.
Tear it down and remake it the courthouse that you want to build and work in. Keep all services onsite, protect the downtown economy. Put the jail at the airport. The jail does not belong next to Grand Oaks and Bald Hill it is an incompatible use. Consider putting some facilities on OSU-law enforcement academy- or in Philomath.
It is a nice symbol, but not practical to keep, upgrade, and maintain.
Move the Historic Courthouse to another piece of land so that a new courthouse/jail/sheriff's office can be constructed on the site.
It could be a combination of museum with meeting spaces. To be at all meaningful, it must be ADA compliant.
I'm on the CRB and Benton County has a dire lack of meeting space for city functions (like CRB) in the downtown area. Being in the new ODHS offices has cut our attendance (when we're in person) to nearly nothing especially regarding family and resource families (because transportation to that area is hard, thus my concerns about putting the jail over there). The city could use a renovated courthouse as a community center to provide space for classes, meetings of groups like CRB, traveling museum exhibits, even indoor play space for kids maybe.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
Deconstruct and reconstruct it somewhere else in Benton County. We need that space the old courthouse is on for the Sheriff's office/emergency center, correctional facility, DA's office, and elections office.
Maintaining public access is important
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
I have served on juries. The courthouse is quaint, at best
Something attractive to visitors and residents. It is a historic and beautiful building. Perhaps a center for K-12 students to receive civics education.
I don't think it makes sense to spend a lot of money for upgrading the historic courthouse for the DA's office, in addition to the fact that it seems better to keep those offices nearer "the action." Of the other two options, I'm not sure about preference but would like to see other ideas and proposals. I certainly don't want to see the historic courthouse torn down!
NAACP
Keep it historic and beautiful, perhaps a community meeting space?
I think it should be upgraded (option 1 or 2) but I don't know enough as to decide DA's office over something else.
Prefer a combination of the D A's office and public access for historic purposes
OTHER
I don't think getting rid of the current jail and creating a huge empty green space around the courthouse is a reasonable use of space. It isn't very workable as a park, and the current situation shows that with some well-placed shrubbery, other buildings/offices on the grounds won't ruin the pretty pictures of the courthouse from the front.

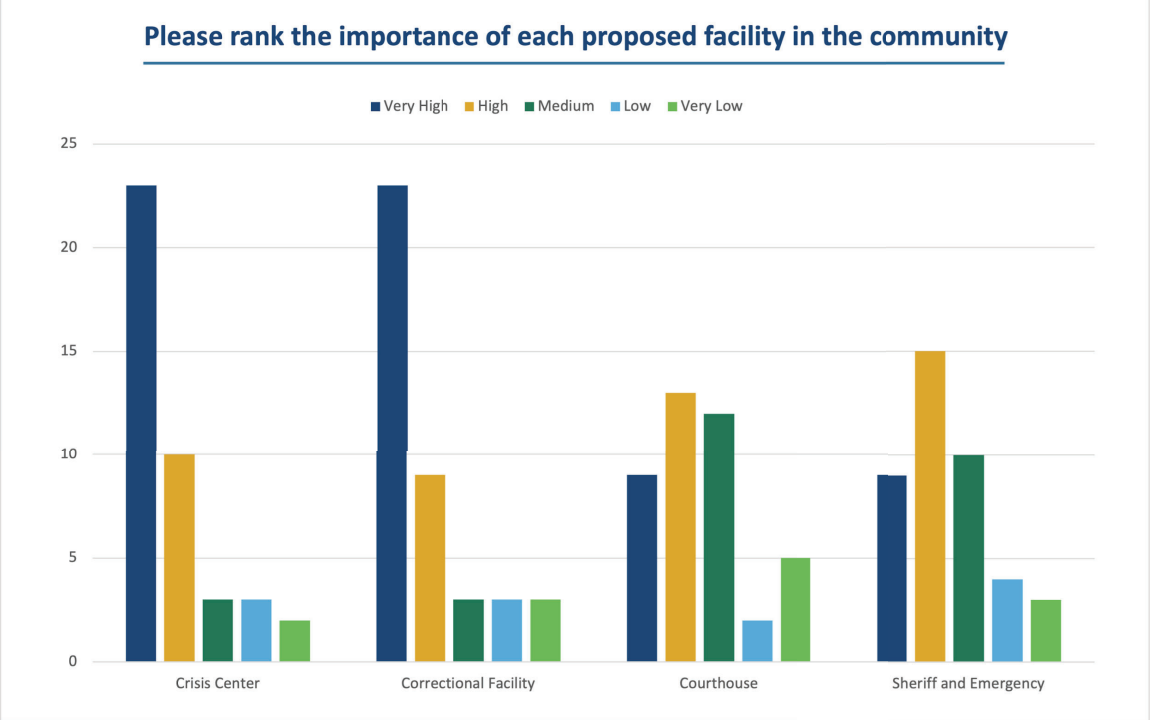
Move the historic building, if possible. Otherwise, level it and put the new justice center in that location.
Museum or educational place
I don’t like the county giving up on the building and insisting a brand new one is needed.
The Historic Courthouse plan should be separated from the proposal.
Use for updated library

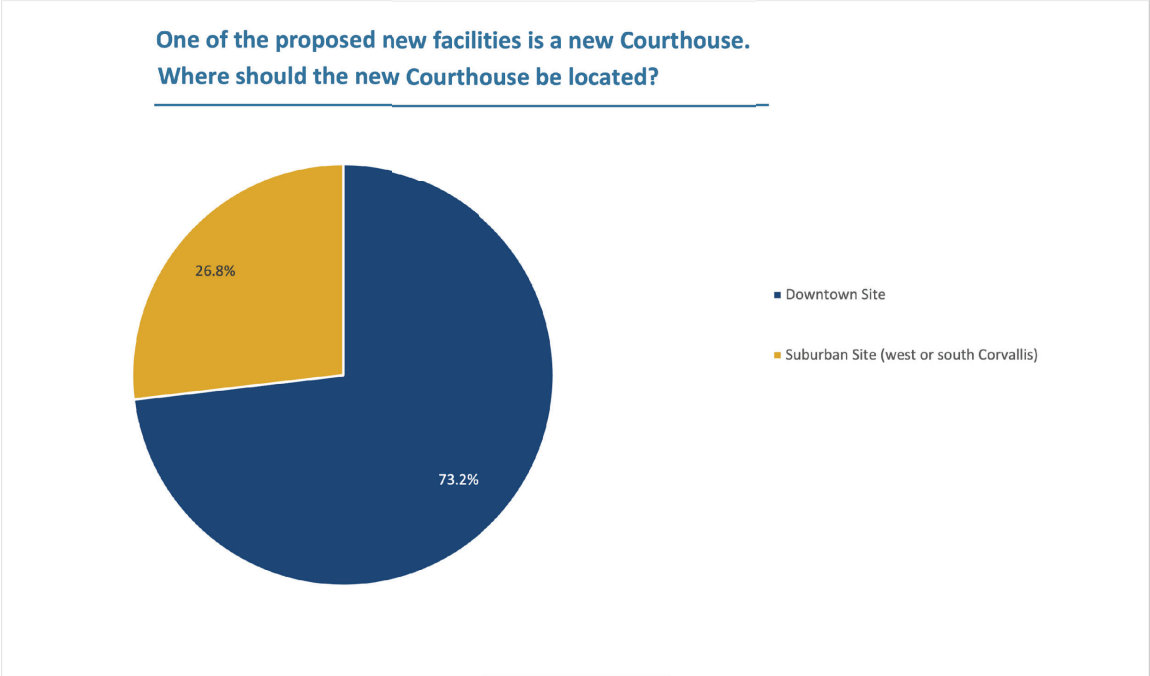
Please provide any additional comments or questions about the Justice System Improvement Program.
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
Appreciate the time and effort City and County employees have put into this, as well as the opportunity to share input on the plan. We need this community-engaged, data-driven process to work to find the best possible solution.
Please choose a location for all these facilities base on the data of how many immediate and future residents, public area such as bald hill, fair ground will be affected instead of just saving budget. All the facilities remain in downtown is a long-term solution and much less people are affected, our city has a better blueprint.
If commissioners et al insist on placing jail etc. near Grand Oaks, we will band together to defeat the bond issue. The tax increase alone is enough to cause me to vote against it.... again!
The west side site directly adjacent to a neighborhood is NOT the answer.
Please don't site the jail next to residential neighborhoods and release inmates into bedroom communities where children play, and people return to sleep after a hard day of work or school. Bald Hill and the fairground are at risk of ruin too from homeless troublemakers released from the jail.
This Zoom call was an absolute farce. You controlled the questions and who got to ask the questions, ignored the questions, or comments you wanted to ignore, and didn't allow for follow-up questions or any real discussion. There was no public discussion here - only your prepared questions and answers. This is not how functioning democracy works.
Place the facilities in a location where it won't impact existing residents!
Your process shows a total lack of community involvement and vision. You are only listening to representatives of interest groups. This is demonstrated in a that is way too budget and ill conceived. How many TVs does a prisoner need? Shame on you for proposing such a boondoggle. Reduce our taxes, you're asking me to pay $500/year+ for your luxurious courthouse and jail.
It seems like there have been very little community involvement options. This is the first meeting I have been invited to give input.
I appreciate the effort that went into this. I am concerned potential sites outside the Corvallis urban growth boundary were not considered. I think the current site is the most appropriate to build the Benton County justice system for the future. As a taxpayer, I would gladly pay a little more in property taxes to move the old courthouse and build a new courthouse on the same site.
I'm glad I attended this meeting. It's not easy to do after a workday, but it was informative, and I appreciated the time to ask questions and learn more.
The West site is not a good fit. The facilities should be near one another for optimal benefit.

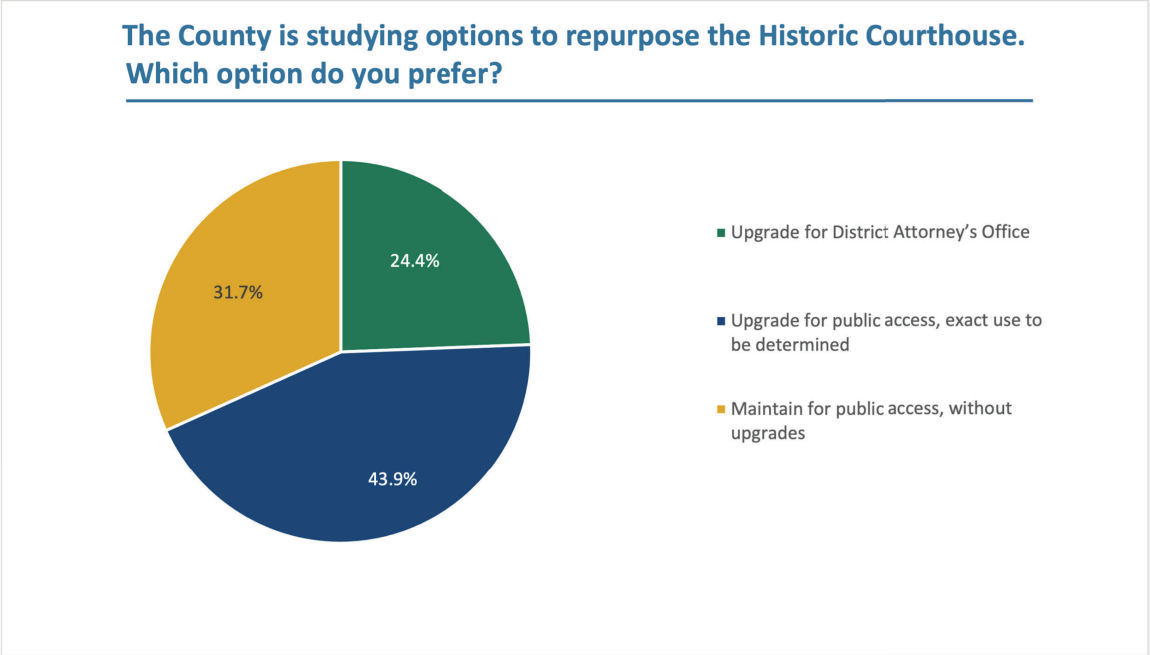
Has anyone considered establishing a drop off and pick up point at or near the Crisis Center, so that people being released from jail (or being released after being cited for Criminal Trespass, which will clearly continue to happen) are both greeted immediately by councilors and case workers AND in an easily accessible place for families to pick them up? Because if lack of transportation (or lack of quick and easy transportation) prevents people from showing up to meetings that determine how long their children stay in foster care you know it will prevent them from coming to pick up troubled family members from jail where as an easy bus trip to the crisis center, where they could also talk to councilors and discuss resources, might actually help get releases back into their community supports.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
Why are there no site options in the north part of town?
Prioritize rehabilitative/restorative services over incarceration, eliminate bail for all less than felony offences. End the practice of law enforcement being the point of entry into restorative services by increasing community-based treatment programs and use of home detention with adequate supervision for non-violent offenders.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Consider moving towards a new model, check out what is being done in Norway. A Crisis Center is a step in the right direction, but not enough. Focus on preventative measures and resources to ensure that vulnerable community members are getting their needs met. I would want to invest in that.
I was impressed with the presentation by Nick Kurth on 9/20/21 at the LWV Zoom program and will be pleased to be part of an effort to educate Benton County residents about the pressing need for a new justice system. Thank you!
NAACP
Please provide better case management pre-trial
OTHER GROUPS
The rush to judgment to two off-site locations seems questionable. Keeping facilities downtown seems most logical. The site next to the water treatment plant is closest to other government offices and services. That property could be condemned, and the owners justly compensated, if need be.
The presentation did not address what kind of correctional facility this would be: a maximum-security prison or? i.e., what kind of offenses would the incarcerated have committed?
Locating a jail in a residential community such as Grand Oaks will likely increase crime rates and lower property values. We purchased our home here because it was a family-friendly neighborhood where our children could play safety outside. I would not have purchased a home here if a jail was next door, and I know most of my neighbors feel the same way. All it takes is one event to tank the neighborhood. I am frustrated and angry. I want to know why the communities weren't involved in site selection. Further, you shared a "comparison study" with a neighbor that is a joke. NYC is not comparable to Corvallis in any way. Further, the study looked at crime rates and property values after four EXISTING jails were renovated and one NYPD tow lot was converted to a jail. Not applicable at all and completely insulting.

A bond measure will fail. Citizens will come out in droves to vote against either of the suburban sites. The County would be well served to find land in a more rural area of the county, away from major development.
Separate out crisis center from bond. Homeowners have been hit hard with property tax increases in last few years (SHAME on assessor's office for increasing in 2020 when so many are unable to work). We voted for 911, which did not work. We voted for library and parks which got taken away from us. Worst of all we voted for school bond which for SW Corvallis residents has seen ZERO improvements and only gotten worse. NO MORE BONDS until we see and can reap the services that were previously promised.
Cannot believe you are considering a site directly adjacent to residential properties in West Hills. The site should be downtown for all.
This proposal comes down to siting. We would support a location not adjacent to an established neighborhood and I think a lot of people feel the same.
Listen to the comments, don't discount neighborhood comments.
The program is estimated to increase taxes by $200 annually, and the presenter claims a jail does not decrease home property values, which is usually does because homes are in a more undesirable location. Has the estimator factored in that with lower property values in those neighborhoods, lower overall taxes? If it's built near my home, I'll be challenging the tax assessment every year.

September 8 Virtual Community Event: Questionnaire #1 Results






The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. Which option do you prefer?
24.4%
31.7%
43.9%
Upgrade for District Attorney's Office
Upgrade for public access, exact use to be determined
Maintain for public access, without upgrades

Do you have additional comments or concerns about the proposed facilities?
Been attending meetings over 2 years Been attending meetings over 2 years on this, glad to see coming closer to fruition. Proximity of all services to each other to share common space/ reduce commuting/ shared services seem necessary. Loved the idea of all downtown for closeness to 'population'. And get it won't all fit downtown, sad. Do hope whether West or South we put all services together.
I am concerned that we are investing in incarceration. I would rather have conversations within the community on how to invest that money in effective alternatives to increased policing and incarceration.
I like the economy of scale and potential reduction in operating costs when we combine these into a campus-style setting.
I really want the project to focus on how the crisis center, restorative justice practices, etc. will help reduce the need for the other facilities. I also worry about language focusing on "keeping money in the county" when referencing our current situation of renting to other counties. This makes it feel like the people in custody are a financial burden and not who they are: people. I understand why this is being said, and don't want a defensive response from the county. I instead want the focus to be on equity, rather than the buzzword focused approach currently being used.
I think putting them all together in one bond is not going to work...it will be too much money
I think the correctional facility and Sheriff's office should be on the same site.
I vote for the south location the courthouse, correctional facility, and sheriff's operations. I would also plan for south town to follow grocery store/shopping center, green space, nice streetlights, murals, completed bike path along the river, I think the courthouse should be located at the same location as the correctional facility - for long-term efficiencies and effectiveness and a streetcar to downtown. Add value to south town - let this be a new beginning to south town.
Locate these facilities in a way that provides room for future expansion if necessary. The site plan should also prioritize adjacencies that optimize staffing; the capital costs of the project are paid once; the staffing and operations costs will continue for decades and will include PRES costs.
My concerns include the cost and taxes going up, as well as issues related to the facilities being located near my home. I am concerned about criminals making their way through my neighborhood on a regular basis. I live in south Corvallis and mentally unstable homeless people already make their way through my neighborhood frequently. I would like to see improvements to my neighborhood that help it feel more safe, not less safe. I've heard a community leader talk about "just sticking it in South Town." South Corvallis should not be seen as THE part of town to place facilities and services seen as undesirable. The burden of serving such needs should be shared by the whole community.

No mention of staffing. Tripling the size of the jail will surely require more people. 120 probably ok for today, but your successor will be standing in front of a crowd 30 years from now saying the jail is too small. Think about it. Current capacity+ prisoners now be sent away + catch and release crew now+ population growth.
Not currently.
Southtown is the worst possible location. The Mary's River floods and then nobody can get in or out. Crisis center, correctional facility. These need to be centrally located so they can be reached easily.
The high cost is a primary concern. Our taxes are already too high, and this will add to the tax burden we already bear.
They are all needed and should be in proximity.
We must start with a jail to hold people accountable.
Yes-you need to fund the crisis center facility to take care of houseless, mental health and drug addicted populations in our county.

Do you have additional comments about the location for the new Courthouse?
Away from downtown, parking access to but it bluntly, sucks at current location.
Courthouse is part of, and often the center of, a civic center, which should be downtown. Otherwise where would the protesters go, for example?
Downtown businesses have suffered too much over last 1.5 years and residents continue to stay away due to homeless safety issues. Don't take this away from us too. Keep the courthouse downtown!
Downtown close to jail.
Having part of the location downtown and some in a suburban site I think would work.
How much traffic will be generated by the outlying sites?
I think the courthouse should be located at the same location as the correctional facility - for long term efficiencies and effectiveness.
It needs to be very accessible and walkable for the general public, next to other Downtown amenities
It should be kept downtown.
Keep the old one.
Leave the courthouse where it is with no updates.
Not at this time.

Should be close to Incarcerated for ease of transfer, close to Police for ease of transfer.
The downtown location would position the courthouse as a community icon and gathering place.
The Suburban sites allow for colocation with the corrections facility, which will optimize staffing and minimize transport between corrections facility and the courts.
There are two many pros/cons for each to make a comfortable decision. I think more detail about the human impact (traffic, access, noise, safety, etc.) will help me be able to make a better decision.
West site has very significant traffic/transportation issues that will not be resolved for years; it is much too congested and will get more with the developments going on.
Why not a site in Northwest Corvallis? Seems like the rich never have to live with these types of projects in their backyards.
Why not the south half of the LE block? The low-income housing could be relocated. No reason it needs to be in proximity to justice system buildings. Could also build partially over police / sheriff motor pool/ parking lot.
Yes...to lower operational costs for security and prisoner transport it should be co-located with the new Correctional Facility.
Do you have any suggestions or considerations for future use of the Historic Courthouse?
Classrooms and meeting rooms for non-profit groups and maintain the courtroom for tours.
Current courthouse can continue to house the elections department, and ID and Marriage, etc. plus all those tourists, students to come and be amazed by architecture and history.
DA's office and close to jail and courthouse.
Have it be a restaurant/cafe with meeting rooms
I like the idea of seeking grant money for upgrades and more community input on use.
I like this idea which is why I favor keeping the CH downtown
I think all the possible suggestions are good ideas, perhaps there is a way to combine come of them.
I think our county's defensive "no we are keeping it no matter what!" approach is showing the county values historic buildings more than the impact that building has had on being inaccessible, used to harm people through a corrupt criminal justice system founded on white supremacy, and is currently a major danger for earthquakes. Consider what tearing down the building could mean for restarting and moving forward.
I would like the Historic Courthouse to eventually be upgraded, preferably with grant funds, if possible. I would like to see this building used in some way for the community. Perhaps it could house free/affordable daycare, recreational or arts classes of some kind, or provide other kinds of free/affordable resources to the community.
If no upgrades were done to the building, what public uses would be possible?
It doesn't make sense to pay for upgrades and then let someone else use it...
It must be reused for civic purposes, otherwise it will sit and deteriorate only costing a higher amount later. Don't kick the can down the road. If Napa County can restore their historic courthouse after an earthquake so can Benton.
Keep as the courthouse.

Lease to a business that provides venues for community meetings, private party events.
Maintain it as a public historic building
Not currently.
Only if new courthouse nearby.
Part of the facility could be kept as a historical courtroom; it could be used by local schools as an educational tool.
The historic Courthouse needs to be maintained but shouldn't be part of this levy. I would like to see this as a public/private partnership. Community meeting space and arts space are possibilities that are appealing. Would like it to be maintained for public usage; not something like offices.

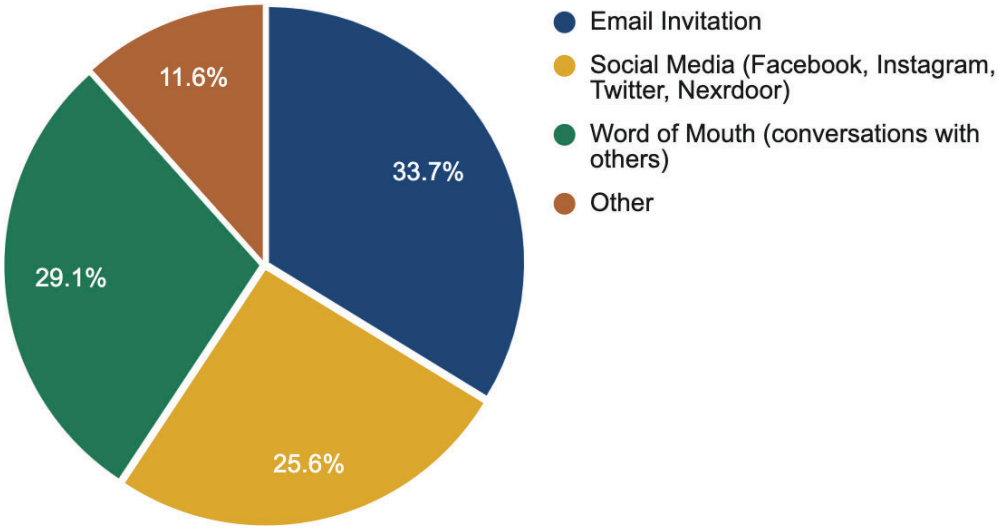
Please provide any additional comments or questions about the Justice System Improvement Program.
Are funds already dedicated to building each of the proposed facilities, hiring additional law enforcement officers, and any other proposed aspects of this program/project? In future multiple choice surveys and polls, please include the option for someone to choose a response that indicates that they don't like any of the presented options (e.g., where should a proposed facility be built?) and/or do not support a proposed aspect of the project (e.g., please rank the importance of each proposed facility -- options would range from "Very high" to "Very low" and would include an additional choice of "I do not support the building of this facility").
As a member of the original Justice System Program Corvallis really needs to modernize and upgrade their Justice System. There is also a need for a Crisis Center. Hopefully we may be able to get both.
Contact Rep DeFazio and see what funds are available in the two "build back better" legislations awaiting Senate approval
I favor a downtown campus within 1-2 blocks of current courthouse.
I feel the marketing of the taxpayer financial burden to fund this through property taxes is purposely misleading and discredits the integrity of this project. You have already been kindly asked to be more accurate by NOT using the county averages, but rather be upfront and honest of what this will cost for city homeowners. Failure to comply with this simple request for honest transparency will cast a dark shadow of mistrust and manipulation for anything stated.
I would like to hear what the County Commissioners are debating about the geographic equity of the location issue. Thanks to Xan for giving some background on that.
In this plan what level of seismic upgrade is suggested for the historic Courthouse?
Inmate release right next to suburban residential neighborhoods is unacceptable in my opinion. I'm concerned about public safety at Bald Hill Natural Area. Two-lane 53rd St with ditches on both sides and no shoulders is not conductive to have an emergency responding agency located next to it; motorists won't be able to safely pull over to let emergency vehicles pass.
Keep it all downtown and centralized.
Make it easily accessible and expandable because future growth is coming.
My preference is for the West Site, regardless of where the courthouse is to be located.
provide trauma informed approach to care to our county population.

Suggest not using bond funds for upgrading the old courthouse - use donations and grants. Very informative meeting - thank you.
Support should come from a local sales tax, not endlessly bleeding the homeowners.
Thank you for hosting this session and I am glad there will be more. I know I'm very critical, but my critiques come from a place of love for our community and desire to see people thrive and not punished by our criminal justice systems. If we truly care about criminal justice system improvements, we need to take a more critical eye at the whole system and see where else changes can be made.
The community really needs to understand WHY we need this -- stats on the percentage of felons released, percentage of people who no-show at court, percentage of people who get a ticket rather than taken to jail. Most people don't realize how broken our criminal justice system is due to the lack of facilities like a functional jail, sobering center, etc. Share some stories about someone who got a ticket, then went out and re-offended to truly illustrate the point.
This feels like decisions have been made and you are trying to sell it to the public. Less presentation, more conversation.
Trust N. Kurth et.al will meet with BIPOC community groups in particular the NAACP to get their opinions/feelings on 'jails'. And help them learn about the 'Crisis Center' and wrap around services included.
What are your plans for long-range funding so that our children aren't saddled with this same problem 50 years from now? We've known we've had a problem with our correctional facility for over 30 years...why haven't we been putting money away so that it could just be taken care of? I'm not sure I understand why we need to vote for a new Correctional Facility but didn't get an option to vote for the Sunset Bldg. or any of the countless remodels and updates of other County buildings. It seems to me that maintaining critical County infrastructure should be a part of my ongoing tax package, not a crisis that requires additional funding. If you are asking me for additional tax dollars, what is the County willing to cut back on to make the total cost less burdensome?
Yes. The presentation was good and informative, but clearly biased in favor of the project. I would like to thank the presenters for their time and effort. While I recognize that the existing facilities are inadequate, I am troubled by the prospect of a large property tax increase to pay for services that are needed to manage the homeless situation and will mostly be utilized by the homeless population of Corvallis. Let's be honest, even though nobody said as much in the presentation, the homeless have been and continue to drive the need for crisis management, law enforcement, addiction services and incarceration. The current "catch and release" is not working, but I'm not sure asking the taxpayers of this community to fork over at least $135M to manage the homeless problem is fair. I feel already overburdened by having "Safe Camp" shoved down my throat by the County Development people last year (I live across the street from this train-wreck). My taxes are plenty high now considering I can't really name any services I use or receive from the county for all the money I pay in taxes, nor anything Benton County government has done that had a positive impact on my life. I will be voting no.

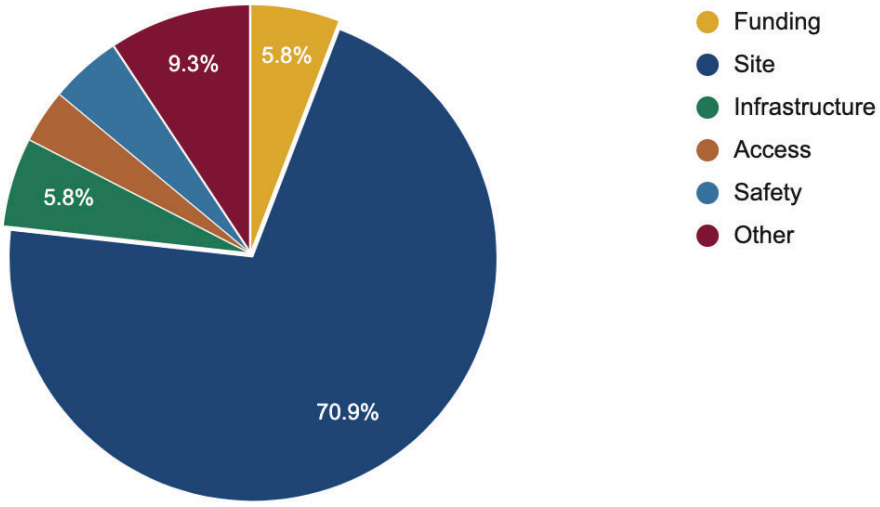
Appendix C: October 13 Virtual Community Meeting Questionnaire #2 Results

After the second large Virtual Community Event on October 13, the County emailed follow-up online questionnaires to the 285 people who registered for the meeting. 86 people completed the questionnaire. Please see the following pages for summary results. Comments included in this document are verbatim and have not been edited.

How did you hear about the October 13 virtual community meeting?



Throughout our first round of public engagement, we heard many themes, ideas and concerns around justice system improvements. What is most important?



Why did you make your selection for what is most important?
I live near the site on Reservoir Road and use Bald Hill Park 4-5 days a week.
This will be a long-term investment; we should not be picking sites in private and rushing the process.
Justice facilities need to remain downtown. There must be easy access for all who need to use these facilities and who need to also access other services in county. It is also essential that these facilities are not near residential areas or nature areas.
Proximity to neighborhoods, particularly their distance from law enforcement.
I am concerned that the jail beds that are filled at this time is largely because the County is prioritizing jailing over providing mental and social support services. The U.S. tends to have a much higher jail rate per population than other countries. Benton County can think out of the box. How can we invest in our personnel and support services in a way that does not require constructing a massive jail complex? Furthermore, a county jail should not be placed in a city. It should be placed outside of the city UGB. This would make property more affordable. There would be less resistance from potential neighbors. County deputies are often out driving around the county, thus the facility does not need to be in an urban area. Response times would not be increased significantly if the facility is 0.5 to 3 miles out of an Urban Growth Boundary of any community.
Corvallis as at a tipping point for growth - we need a real, carefully considered expansion plan that will let us make sure we have infrastructure that lets us grow without losing what makes us unique.
Site drives most of the other issues.
How dare you consider building a jail next to an established family-friendly neighborhood?!?
The site must protect residential areas and be efficient and effective. All costs must be considered. Resident questions pointed to a "rush to judgment" without considering all pertinent facts.
I am concerned about new development and the location of the development. Is the development necessary? What other sites were considered and how were they eliminated? What will be the impacts of the proposed new developments (environmental, light/noise pollution, impacts to residential communities, and more)? Why weren't any specifics about the location of the sites in question shared at the meeting and why can't I find them on your website? What is the footprint of the proposed developments, both buildings and parking lots/driveways? Some commissioners shared the potential benefit of the new development that could arise at these locations, like stores and restaurants, which to me, given where I think we're talking about (again, still can't figure out the specific locations) is not in my mind a potential benefit. Was there any consideration for re-building within the current footprint of facilities rather than add new, which feels like sprawl? Why, if there was such good public engagement already, did I only just hear about any of this a few days ago when I'm someone who pays attention and stays informed about what's happening in the community?
Site affects all those other issues and is likely to be the biggest determinant in whether the bond passes.
Because everyone wants to stick their undesirable stuff in my neighborhood
NIMBYs always push bad things into Southtown. We're too decent and jaded to NIMBY.
Site influences all of these, so this choice is not useful.

Locating the site directly adjacent to existing neighborhoods is a terrible option, why would the county consider that when there are more rural and remote options available?
The discussion of where to site the jail is irrelevant if there is not funding available. Bond measures have been repeatedly defeated.
A proposed site is close to where I live.
Site should be accessible, close to public transport and courthouse, not in an area that floods.
County does very little, long-range planning. With big things like the justice center having a long-range plan would be a good idea to be sure it is in an area that is best suited in years to come. Everything now a days Seems to be based on who is willing to sell and show much can they get. Both county and city of Corvallis are lacking in planning for the future. Not on whatever is best for the county. OSU is also guilty.
Carbon footprint, social justice
People who are involved in the justice system are more likely to have economic issues that result in their needing to use public transportation. Access is important!
Because as many folks said on mtg chat, SITE encompasses the others. And what you are proposing is SO DANGEROUS and SO UPSETTING to both the West site nearby residents and those in the South site, that we will ALL have to band together to defeat the bond issue, should the councilor's select either site, instead of where it should go, the McFadden site...or downtown.
My strong preference is for all the facilities to be located downtown. Long ago, the voters approved acquisition of the rest of the block bounded by 5th, 6th, Jackson, and Monroe in order to build the "new" jail and a permanent LEC. The current jail and LEC were to be used only until the new facilities were built on that block. Instead of seeking to locate the facilities downtown, as originally intended, previous bond measures sought approval of much larger facilities on remote locations. They have all been rejected by the voters. Downtown needs to retain as much local government structure as possible, and public transportation accessibility would not be an issue downtown.
The site location needs to make sense for the users of the services and the staff. And it is crucial to consider the environmental impact of building on each site.
Site, or to use another word, place has the most impact on not only humans, but all living beings, including water, wildlife, plants, and the very earth beneath that which is proposed.
The county goes for a levy after the city and school. I, for one, am tired of this sequence. If the County is serious, then go out first!
The sites were presented as west vs south duel. Both sites where places can't avoid residential area when leaving. It's unacceptable.
It will affect neighborhoods, community, jobs, and people's everyday lives moving forward.
It's the most important aspect to me
Jail is the wrong answer
During flooding, South Corvallis is often effectively cut off from the rest of the city. The part of South Corvallis identified for the South Site also lacks multi-modal access. I think both the West and Downtown locations fare better in this respect.

The people it serves need to have access to resources, not get cut off by seasonal flooding (which is predicted to worsen with increased rain volume in shorter time periods), and site includes safety.
Safety, potential depreciation of property value, increased traffic
We need to make sure we have the money first.
Siting of jail drives ALL other issues
I don't think these are mutually exclusive categories, but the sites that have been chosen to seem uniquely poorly suited for this type of facility, so that must be the default.
A Jail or Correctional Facility does NOT belong near, much less adjacent to, any suburban residential area.
The location is critical to the success of the new Justice Center bond passing.
Security for new facilities on same campus
I live near one of the sites being considered. I do not think the area's roads or water table are equipped to handle construction of a large facility. The McFadden site may be better able to handle this kind of pressure and is also further away from established neighborhoods.
I don't want a jail located near my neighborhood.
I wish there the ability to choose more than one. Site selection because none of the site selected offer what the community wants. I see a need for more space to serve substance abuse offenders and possible office space, but not more jail space. Let's look at the studies that prove jail without real rehabilitation doesn't work.
The costs for this project are excessive and many aspects of it are unnecessary or redundant. The city and county view homeowners as a bottomless well of money, this needs to stop.
There are regulations in place for most of the above except site.
Negative impact on nearby families.
Because I DON'T want a jail built in south town. It should be next to the LE building, right across the street (kitty-corner) from the current courthouse. It would reduce transport costs to court. The city/county already own that apartment building that houses parolees/probation folks and people in rehab. How about the Century Phone building north of the jail? It already looks like a brick shithouse like all the new campus buildings. It would fit right in. Re-do the inside of that huge brick building! Obvious choice to purchase the phone company building if you don't want to tear down the apartment-rehab housing.
I am not sure such a large jail is needed and there is the concern that more beds just means more beds filled. It seems investment in other ways to address homelessness and mental health issues would be a better use of funds instead of so much more money into law enforcement and incarceration. From an article in the Guardian https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/07/us-cities-defund-police-transferring-money-community "The Austin police funds were reallocated to emergency medical services for Covid-19, community medics, mental health first responders, services for homeless people, substance abuse programs, food access, workforce development, abortion services, victim support, parks and more."
Both W and S sites have cons. The neighbors will fight, and bond will fail.
SAFETY issues. 24/7 noise. Light pollution. Traffic - no way to expand 53rd St. especially under railroad trestle which floods and becomes impassable. Mary's Annexation has not been factored into consideration.

because the other issues are part and parcel of the site. Of course, the other issues are important to consider in the site placement.
A properly vetted location is of utmost importance
The site must be affordable, readily accessible and there must be enough space to expand the size of the facilities in the future if necessary.
Crisis Center, services for Mental Health, helping/keeping folks out of the prison system when they aren't conforming to norms of folks with houses, good medical care. I do feel that the Crisis center should be near the jail for Police/Sheriff officers to choose services for some folks arrested.
There must be a support system in place for the inmates and for those who work there. Medical treatments, Legal help, parking for visitors, housing, gas stations, water supply, garbage pickups, foodstuffs, places for meetings. Of the three sites the South option has NONE of these. Unless the city plans on dumping a load of money into a huge building frenzy, access to these things will be a real traffic and time mess. There are environmental considerations, In the South Corvallis plan there WILL be flooding which will cut off the jail from access in and out of town.
Because I disagree that siting a jail among 3 recreational paths (Campus Way, Midge Cramer Path, 53rd St. Bike Path), Bald Hill Natural Area, a wetland, and a large housing complex is irresponsible and short-sighted.
I live in South Towne City always wants to put homeless camps in jails in our neighborhood and we can't even get a decent grocery store
If the site can be accessed via adequate transportation infrastructure, I will support the bond measure. If - for instance - the West site is chosen and there is no inclusion of DEFINITIVE plans for improvements to 53rd and to West Hills and to Hwy 20, I will actively work to defeat it.
The Commissioners say this facility is intended to serve for many decades...perhaps 50 years. So, site selection is very important for the future of our community. Mistakes now have serious, long-term consequences. The County had a ranking or rating system to evaluate sites. Clearly, by the County's own criteria, the McFadden site came out head and shoulders higher in the County ranking. Much superior in the ranking than, say, W. Corvallis. Why the Commissioners eliminated what their own data showed was the very best site is a mystery. Why did the Commissioners, at the last minute, in secrecy, eliminate the very best site for the citizens of the County and the City? Why did they, by their own data and analysis, eliminate the best site? At some point the Commissioners are going to have to answer questions and explain why they have eliminated the best (preferred) site and ignored their own data and the report their expensive consultants provided. There is no sense talking about funding, infrastructure, access, or safety when you have picked the wrong site. Site obviously comes first. Then we can all get focused on getting the other pieces in place.
In any case, cost shouldn't be the first and overriding criteria for advancing an investment in a facility intended to serve for 50 years or perhaps more (note that Commissioner Malone repeatedly indicated cost was his overriding criteria).
If the County is so concerned about funding, why did they just spend $400K+ on a "bonus" program for County employees? Who does that? No one! It is an archaic practice of for-profit businesses that underpay their employees and then give them a "bonus" if the business does well. Generally, not done by governmental agencies.

A far better use of the federal (windfall) funds would be to put it toward the JC or some other worthy project like housing for homeless. If the County has an issue with employee compensation, they need to do a classification and compensation study of comparable agencies. There are professional ways of addressing things and an unprofessional. The County selected the latter.
Impacts to neighborhoods and the surrounding environment. Especially concerned about light pollution
It is dangerous and counterproductive to locate this mega criminal center anywhere near a residential/school area. It is dangerous for children when criminals are released to wander the area near schools, and dangerous for residents when they wander around neighborhoods. Not to mention the devaluation of property values of having a mega large criminal complex next to an established neighborhood. There are much more suitable locations for such a complex, not near housing or schools.
How we build our system directly impacts how we function. By starting with the intentions of the infrastructure, we can integrate better functionality.
My concern is about funding such a large undertaking and making the project components acceptable to the voters. Yesterday was dominated by people who had a vested interest in the site and minimal interest in what was going to be accomplished and paid for.
Because my neighborhood borders one of the suggested sites
The site choice really affects all the other considerations.
A justice center belongs downtown, with easy access for those who will be using the facilities and services and with surrounding support services. It does not belong between residential communities and major recreational areas (fairgrounds, Bald Hill). It does not belong where it will substantially impact the value of hundreds of homes. It does not belong where there are hundreds of families that will be placed at risk of increased crime. It does not belong where the flora and fauna in land owned by the Greenbelt Land Trust will be negatively impacted by the increased traffic, sound, and light.
The site should NOT be located anywhere near a residential area, period!
Site will have an impact on almost all other factors
I believe that it is important for the new justice center to be easily available to residents who may benefit from services. I also feel it is important that our justice officers are immersed in the community they serve.
We have enough crazy people walking up and down third street. We don't criminals too.
Because site includes all the (the site can determine some of the funding needed, site determines what infrastructure is in place and proximity to exciting infrastructure, similar for the other two selections)

We absolutely need a justice center, but the site selection should be made cautiously, with absolute intention and focus. I am disheartened to hear the very vocal opposition of some west-side residents, which seems mostly hinged on emotional arguments rather than sound logic. While I was not able to join the Oct. 14 meeting (it said it was full), the article in the GT made my stomach turn. A neighbor showing how their surrounding nature will be impacted was an egregious parade of privilege. We should instead consider factors such as access to other areas of Corvallis, transportation, proximity to nearby support services, and whether the site is prone to flooding. As a Southtown resident, I am not opposed to a justice center going in my neighborhood, but the timing is not right for Southtown. We finally get some wins with ODOT making a concerted effort to improve access, equity and safety. We finally get a glimpse of hope for a more vibrant Southtown with the Urban Renewal District. We finally get folks paying attention to the danger and hazards we face simply moving about. Southtown is getting a shot in the arm. Let the medicine work before making a surgeon's cut! Highway 99 is still dangerous; flooding is still a threat. Crossing the highway and getting to north town is a hazard in of itself. We need to optimize Southtown before we can take on a justice center. The community here is astoundingly full of good will. But we have seen what happens when a wealthier area screams louder than us--we only must look to the men's cold weather shelter for evidence. I implore you to consider how a justice center in Southtown may trigger a major backslide in an already-depressed area. And I implore you to not let irrational NIMBY arguments drive the decision.
I feel strongly that the site should not be near existing residential neighborhoods.
Sites proposed are near residential areas, wetlands, parks, and would greatly impact traffic
This plan calls for a lot of money to be put into a building and staffing, when more success would come from giving that money to people in need. Let's treat the cause not the symptoms.
The site trumps all, because if the site has adverse impacts upon drainage, the environment, transportation, neighboring residential communities, safety, infrastructure, and access, then the site's potential impacts must be weighed. Community support must be gained for a site. I'd like you to pursue sites beyond the South and West locations.
The most important is site in terms of neighborhood SAFETY and transportation access and local impact.
Corvallis is a beautiful city full of many residents, houses, and schools. Locating jail and mental health services near any of these thriving and growing communities feel like this project is overvaluing the jail and mental health services and under valuing the schools and communities that will be negatively affected by these mega-structures.
I am mostly concerned about the site at 53rd and Reservoir related to the increase in traffic and safety with its proximity to the fairgrounds and Bald Hill Park area. I live on West Hills and the amount of traffic on this road has increased significantly in the past few years and I can count on one hand how many times I have seen a sheriff's vehicle monitoring traffic. The speed limit on this road is 45 but drivers are often driving much faster. Speeding, passing on double yellow lines, tailgating, road rage, passing on the right side in the shoulder lane, driving with half of the vehicle in the shoulder/bike lane. I have seen drivers passing in the right shoulder lane because they couldn't slow down and wait for the car in front of them to make a left turn into the Bald Hill Park area. If a bicyclist or walker/jogger had been in that lane at the time, they would have been killed. There are a lot of bicyclists and joggers along this road and there is no separation or protection for them. There needs to be a trail built that links Corvallis and Philomath that is separate from the roadway. Also, the Transportation System Plan indicates proposals for extension of the Clemens Mill Road and Industrial Way. Both of those proposals would give much improvement to the flow of traffic.

Because trauma to everyone in the system creates an obstacle to the healing and well-being that the justice system is meant to create.
I understand that the highest rated location north of Corvallis near HP was dismissed too quickly and would serve the city of Corvallis and Benton County much better than either of the other two sites. I feel strongly that this northern site needs to be reconsidered.
West location will be detrimental to local area
I am already convinced we need the center. I have voted for it before and would vote for it IF the site is right. I live on the west side near Oak Creek Drive so I'm more familiar with it, but I'm not saying that the South location is adequate. A decision this important should not be either/or. We keep losing and losing and damaging wetlands and wildlife habitat. It's always incremental. When does it stop? Site is important to me because once built it will be with us for a long time and no doubt will have both recognized and unintended/not yet fully recognized negative consequences. My concerns: impacts on Bald Hill Park, environment/watershed, increased traffic (especially if the Mary's River annexation produces a large development), livability. There's already been a large increase of traffic along 53rd in the last few years, between Harrison and Philomath Boulevard. Backups at the stop lights.
Many reasons that I will detail in a letter to commissioners shortly. I live in an area that would be negatively affected and I support my neighbors who live even closer and who oppose construction of a large municipal building with this function next to their houses and near a natural area, recreational trails, and wetland habitat.
That is the most critical consideration and decision, and poor site selection killed the last voter measure

What else do you want the commissioners to keep in mind during the site selection deliberations?
The reservoir road site is near several neighborhoods, a beautiful outdoor recreation area (Bald Hill) and the county fairgrounds. I worry that this location will affect property values, but I am also worried about personal safety.
The county presented 10's to 100's of millions of dollars needed for traffic improvement around the west site, but these expenses are not included in this proposal. They are all currently unfunded.
Community support and community impact
Access to transportation and other services for those upon release from incarceration.
Number of neighbors within 0.5 miles; Amount of community support (will be greater if fewer neighbors); How can the county balance the need for social and mental support services with "traditional policing"? Maybe fewer beds are needed, but more behavioral support services.
I want the commissioners to be honest with themselves about whether they're making a choice in order to get this on the 2022 ballot or because they think the site they've chosen is the best possible site for this incredibly important facility. If we can't find the right site in time, let's consider alternate options to get the facilities workable while we do the work of planning this.
Equity. Poorer neighborhoods tend to have less community involvement, not because they are unconcerned, but because they have often less time and energy to engage. A lack of response should not be considered tacit approval.

How dare you not consider the safety of the neighboring community? You allow no metric for community safety or support! You eliminated other sites because they were in residential areas. Grand Oaks and the surrounding neighborhoods (there are others affect besides Grand Oaks) do not warrant the same consideration?!? This is unacceptable. This site should have been nixed when you nixed the other residential locations. Ignoring that Grand Oaks is immediately adjacent to the proposed site is inexcusable, no matter the zoning for that parcel.
Impact of residential communities - the above items seem to ignore current residents' welfare
I am concerned about new development and the location of the development. Is the development necessary? What other sites were considered and how were they eliminated? What will be the impacts of the proposed new developments (environmental, light/noise pollution, impacts to residential communities, and more)? How does proposed development align with community development planning processes that are underway? Why weren't any specifics about the location of the sites in question shared at the meeting and why can't I find them on your website? What is the footprint of the proposed developments, both buildings and parking lots/driveways? Some commissioners shared the potential benefit of the new development that could arise at these locations, like stores and restaurants, which to me, given where I think we're talking about (again, still can't figure out the specific locations) is not in my mind a potential benefit. Was there any consideration for re-building within the current footprint of facilities rather than add new, which feels like sprawl? Why, if there was such good public engagement already, did I only just hear about any of this a few days ago when I'm someone who pays attention and stays informed about what's happening in the community? I was very troubled to hear two of the commissioners de-prioritize community support for what they will factor into their decisions. It leads me to believe concerned community members will be dismissed for just being NIMBY, which I don't feel is fair nor correct. My concerns about the location and footprint of the proposed developments extends beyond my neighborhood. I just don't have confidence in this process. Listing a handful of organizations, the project team gave presentations to does not to me feel like genuine and meaningful community engagement. I heard in the presentation tonight that the county has been engaged in this project for years, so I understand their interest in moving on to the next stage but based on what I saw in the chat tonight, there are many of us in the community who feel this process and decision is being rushed because of a self-imposed deadline. There are so many questions that have yet to be answered. Please remember that as commissioners you work for us and if many people are asking to slow this decision down so you can be sure your constituents are well-informed and have truly been heard, that should be your decision. Thank you.
Please do not make a hasty decision based on a perception that there is no time to waste.
Development plans, neighborhood visioning, refinement plans, urban renewal zones
That ONLY Southtown Property values have dropped in 25 years, just recently. That is DATA about the impact of local Government policy Negatively impacting Southtown. You think a jail is a step up from saturating us with homeless people, and allowing pretty much Any bad behavior in n Southtown? Other 'hoods NIMBY arguments are Baloney, and they get their way every time.
The West and South sites are inappropriate due to proximity to residential areas, transportation issues, and infringement on natural areas and wetlands. Both will fail at the ballot box
Please keep in mind the impact this will have to the people, homes, and neighborhoods with children near the west site. There are much better options within the county.
Carbon footprint, public transportation, current traffic problems, neighborhood livability.
How it will affect the long-term development of south Corvallis

Don't continue to stick south Corvallis with whatever is unwanted in other parts of Corvallis.
What are your neighbors and impact on transportation and future developments in the vicinity? West side would be a disaster transportation wise. Also, wetlands on property and issue with railroad and trestle. What affect will Mary's development have on area.
Proximity of related services
Can't think of any
Apparently, you are NOT considering the cost of updating roads to handle all the excessive traffic, NOR the loss of our property values. You just ignore us when we bring all that up.
A downtown location could accommodate all the proposed facilities, consistent with the historic plan. Two and one-quarter contiguous city blocks are already owned, and public domain condemnations could be used to acquire more space, perhaps the rest of the block bounded by 5th, 4th, Jackson, and Van Buren. Fifth Street between Jackson and Monroe could be closed, and the street area used for part of the campus. Perhaps additional office space in the Benton Hotel Building or other nearby buildings could be rented. I realize this is not an option currently being considered, but it would eliminate the NIMBY objections to the South and West proposals.
The south site may be more at risk of flooding, but its greater proximity to the city center is a great advantage.
Environmental impact, getting more community support; more voters, taxpayers, residents engaged, slow down, do this in a good way, consider that the right site may not be in your current field of vision
Listen to the community. Be flexible. I have never heard from anyone that they were happy about the County's purchase of the railroad.
Road condition and traffic condition. 53rd is busy. New housing area is planned already at roundabout. No possibility to avoid residential area when leaving the facility for any service. Added traffic will either come from busy Harrison, already congested Western/Philomath, or school/activity filled northwestern Corvallis. To mitigate that, only improving road condition can work but then there is residential area (north, south, east to Harrison), railway bridge (south) and unavoidable Philomath/Western/53rd if go from west. No other facility will follow suite as sunset square is within a mile. Not a choice for future proof.
I don't think anyone wants a new justice center to close to their home and neighborhood; I think it obviously will negatively impact the "blue sky" of any Corvallis area. Wherever you do decide, though, I think you should spend enough money to SO positively affect an area that neighborhoods actually *want* this entire package. It would perhaps be easier to sell this more positive package-deal to a community.
Public Safety
Neighborhood safety
The location needs to not be driven by wealthier people having more influence than less wealthy people. There is a lot of NIMBY on this project, but "more affordable" areas tend to have less clout putting a higher burden on the same areas over and over.
Safety, property value depreciation and increased traffic
It's obvious to me you will have to split up the project. I think downtown site is too small for everything and jail would be better situated in less populated area. South Corvallis site looks good for jail. But the more intensive operations serving public (various services, courts, etc.) need to happen where people are -- downtown.

53rd Street site is bad unless for just jail. 1. Traffic/access problems, i.e. Harrison Blvd is two lanes and never going to be otherwise. 2. Neighbors in subdivision to south won't like it. I don't know why this is so hard to understand.
You're relying on some sort of checklist that removes thinking from the process. I think it would be better to think about this holistically. More common sense would be desirable. But I guess you want documentation to fall back on.
We chose to live in this neighborhood for MANY reasons...one of them was that there is ZERO crime here. It is a safe neighborhood to raise children. You said in your meeting you discounted residential sites, yet you chose to site your jail NEXT DOOR to a residential site. This boggles the mind!!! I know Corvallis Landscape is a cheap buy (they are in financial trouble), but cheap cost should not be the determiner of location. You wouldn't want this jail located next to your house, so why do you wonder why we don't want it near ours???
The County has not conducted any evaluation of the relationship between their site location and other ongoing efforts underway involving the city, the South Corvallis Urban Renewal District, the South Corvallis Area Plan, or ODOT's Highway 99/3rd Street Corridor Improvements. The County can't be this siloed when there is so much going on. How does this fit in? Put the evaluation in writing.
We are organizing to defeat the bond and recall the commissioners if West or South Site are chosen.
Additional access routes in case of major earthquake or other natural disasters. When considering the South Corvallis site, the “Southern Gateway” appearance of a correctional facility at the city limits.
Access for sheriff and police to court and jail facility on joint campus
I would rather the commission take time to select of the most suitable site even if it costs more money. Have a long-range vision for Corvallis and sustainable city development.
Geographical equity.
This needs more time to be vetted through the community, especially when we homeowners are footing the bill.
Cost. Not just upfront cost, but cost to the community, to the neighbors, to home values, to future development, etc.
The community. South town has many more pedestrians than the other sites and we are already hosting the house-less population.
The jail belongs either at the HP site or by the airport. It does not belong adjacent to family homes.
That we DON'T want this shoved down our South-Town throats. You own the downtown site. Because Grand Oaks folks are possibly more vocal, do not doubt the ire of your South Town constituents and their votes. I will vote “NO" for funding the jail until a site has been confirmed and you can show us the cost breakdown. And you want us to fund this after the county announces it has just given raises and bonuses to its workforce?
More sites might be viable if the planned jail is smaller.
McFadden should be pursued as it would be accepted by all in the county
I do not believe the commissioners have faith in crisis center success because of lumping all other facilities into bond. Bond will fail if correctional facility is chosen near a neighborhood.
BOTH OPTION 1 AND 2 ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR NUMEROUS REASONS!!!!!!!!!! To push forward with those two options only insures a HUGE waste of time and resources. The bond will be doomed from passing. Come on here, admit to a misstep Commissioners and do the right thing! McFadden property should be acquired - why are you shying away from this???
Long term land use planning and road infrastructure deficits

Site the functions (courts, corrections, sheriff's office) in a manner that creates efficiencies related to adjacencies and minimizes staffing. The capital costs are paid once, the operational costs continue forever, including PERS.
After the NIMBY response at this meeting, I'm fearful for any bond measures. So information for all the homes nearby and within in city of whom gets housed in the jail (vs. prisons?) and condition of current jail (more jail open houses?) ... and another look at the costs of putting this all downtown. I wonder what was in the flyers alerting some of those near the Fairgrounds of the meeting.
Caving into the demands of areas with louder voices and money and shoving all the distasteful things under the rug of South Corvallis will merely make a huge area designed by the city council to be a future tax tar baby full of problems. Look ahead forty years and consider that you may be creating an entire city section that will drag everything down.
What your actions will mean to the property values, health and safety of the residents who will bear the brunt of this reckless decision if the jail is built on Reservoir Road. One city official actually told a neighbor that the county did not want to site the jail out by the airport BECAUSE IT WOULD NEGATIVELY EFFECT COMMERCIAL property values. What about our property values?
I live in Southtown you want to give us homeless camps and jails we can't even get a decent grocery store
Certainly, impact to existing residential neighborhoods.
Value, impact on residential, transportation, process
Surrounding environment, impacts to natural areas and migration corridors
That there is much opposition to locating this complex near any residential area or schools. The commissioners are doing a great disservice to their constituents if they approve a site (whether south town or the west side) near long established housing areas, schools, and wetlands which are environmentally sensitive.
Please keep your emergency manager in the discussion. They will be coordinating the response to any kind of emergency there and will have specific insight to how we can prepare the infrastructure to mitigate harm for the community and those in the justice system.
Get the best site for effective operation of the facility now and for next 50 years. If the concerns of those attending happen then plan for that to avoid impacts in the future
Flow of traffic. It’s already very congested to drive up and down S 3rd. There are not alternative routes.
The proximity of the site to residential neighborhoods. Distance matters.
Commissioners need to keep in mind first and foremost the welfare of the community and the impact that the placement of a justice center near so many residences will have on the quality of life for the people living there, for their safety, for their property values (a decline of which will represent not just a financial loss for the owners but also for the city with lower taxes paid). They must also keep in mind the impact that a justice center will have on major recreational areas in the county (fairgrounds, Bald Hill).
Based on the community feedback at the September 29th meeting, this project has absolutely zero support from the Grand Oaks community. You would be forcing this facility on a group of Benton County homeowners who purchased their homes believing that they would live in a safe, quiet, and uncongested area.
South Corvallis already has done our part of the dirty work, time for the rest of Corvallis to step up. South third is already a driving hazard we don't need more traffic.

Impact of neighbors and future adjacent development.
See above.
If site is near any existing Corvallis neighborhood, I will vote no on the bond measure.
Other sites: the current two do not look acceptable
I would like the Commissioners to also consider all the City and community efforts that have been put into Southtown in the past 10 years to improve everything from land use to connectivity to livability and the efforts to transform part of Southtown into a neighborhood center. These efforts are also attempting to establish this area a "gateway" to Corvallis. Southtown lacks most of the shopping and business amenities prevalent in the rest of Corvallis. Adding these Justice Center buildings in Southtown are not what we've been asking for and would be unwelcome.
I want Commissioners to reconsider the distance to downtown civil services if very important. Distance from amenities like the Men's Shelter, and social services is important. Reduced drive time to lessen greenhouse gas emissions is important. Transportation infrastructure to support the site must be in place. There should be no large residential areas directly next to the site. And most importantly, community support and opposition should be on your list of considerations and considered criteria. It is ridiculous that this is not on the list. You are our representatives. Please represent us.
Besides the cost, please consider how many families will be affected in the future and how likely the bond will be passed.
Impact to neighborhood safety when inmates released at the front door of the jail. Road improvement to make the Justice Center function well, for both law enforcement access and neighborhood residents.
Location to schools and residential areas. As someone originally from the Midwest, where jail services are generally in more remote locations, it's unfathomable how close to schools these sites are.
Has the way(s) in which this project will impact the existing surrounding community been considered? All the items on the list above (funding, site, infrastructure, etc.) are important but there are a lot of residential properties, fairgrounds with activities for families and children, effect on property values. Do any of the decisionmakers live in the nearby area? How will this project impact their lifestyle?
Access to all
They need to reexamine why the northern site was excluded when it was much better and not near neighborhoods or a prominent recreation area - Bald Hill. The northern site also has better infrastructure including roads that can handle the additional traffic. 53rd already backs up with people trying to turn right on Reservoir Rd.
Make sure outside study is completed about neighborhood impact, not just from those who will gain.
A few years ago I thought the fairgrounds investigated and was planning to go forward with a remodel and construction of a Benton County Fairground and Exposition Center? That's adjacent to the proposed West site. Could be important economically to our county to develop a set of facilities that could be used by broad segments of the community. The current fairgrounds seem underutilized and looks more and more dumpy…. unloved and uncared for. What happened to that plan? I haven't heard it discussed in the justice center conversations. If a justice center there precedes it, it may then negate or cramp BC fairgrounds opportunities that may be a golden opportunity for the county and its residents.

I realize the need for justice system improvements—especially the need for adequate mental health, transitional housing, and substance abuse resources. And I really appreciate the work that has gone into this process. However, neither the south nor the west site is appropriate for a large municipal building, and the inclusion of on a ballot measure would lead to its ultimate rejection. The west site, especially, is wholly inappropriate for this kind of development. I hope these discussions will continue and that residents are invited to help the County find more workable solutions. This is not a NIMBY complaint, and it's not just about property taxes this time: the opposition to these sites and the haphazard public engagement process is shared by those who live nearby, their neighbors, their neighbors' neighbors, and all who want solutions that a. work to promote community safety, b. provide services and treatment to those at risk of entering the criminal justice system, and c. preserve our quality of life and the integrity of our recreational and natural areas. (That last one is important, and I hope folks remember how much it is valued.)
Other things the commissioners should consider: Public opposition or support (mostly opposition so far, at least out here on the west side); noise and light pollution (a MAJOR issue) and its effect on nearby residents and wildlife—esp. for the west site near Bald Hill Natural Area, home to at least 11 Oregon Conservation Strategy species; opportunities for addressing elements of the improvement separately and with a staggered timeline rather than as a rushed package deal; the inappropriate siting of a municipal building adjacent to natural areas, parks, recreational trails, and residential subdivisions; wildlife habitat - the west site is a designated locally significant wetland and habitat/ecosystem services would be degraded by any further development on this site; serious traffic issues on the west side--Harrison/53rd/etc.—cannot handle more traffic or development at this time; recreational and viewshed impacts on one of the most popular trails in Corvallis (Midge Cramer); community safety concerns by our neighbors in Grand Oaks; proximity to downtown services and public transport (multimodal paths are just not as relevant here); how this fits into the climate change plan; the need for more open spaces and trails (instead of more development) to take pressure off current trail systems and trailhead travel corridors; the fact that most of my neighbors are only now finding out details about these site selections and discussions since some of us have been able to attend meetings, the mixed messages delivered in meetings and confusion about the downtown site as not actually a legit alternative (many I've talked to do not understand that it isn't being presented as an actual building location); etc.
I will be sending brief letters on Friday 10/22. Thanks for reading this long list and for your continued consideration.
Community support, and proximity to housing

Please provide any additional comments or questions about the Justice System Improvement Program.
This process has been rushed and not public. This bond will not pass.
Has anyone considered simply replacing the current jail with a prefab facility that would allow us to provide acceptable space for inmates while we make a better choice and focus on the pretrial program and other services?

You are trying to meet some arbitrary deadline in November and desperately choosing a site, rather than truly finding a site that the community will support. Take the time and find a better site. Otherwise, we will fight this bond passing with every fiber of our beings. Also, your research is sadly lacking. The comparison reports and sites you have shared have been sadly lacking, even laughable. The Grand Oaks study was conducted by academics and professionals and is the most accurate data we have regarding community impact. Please show us some respect, recognize the data, and pick an alternate site!
Again, the County seems to be rushing to push a decision without considering important information.
Please be more transparent, equitable, and inclusive in your process and in involving and informing the community.
The north site is hands down the best location. The zoning is easily changed. The property should be condemned, and the owner compensated.
The west site is the next best option. There are no concerns about access during flooding, it is not at a gateway for visitors to Corvallis, the rich neighbors on the hill won't know it's there, it won't be stealing tax revenue from an urban renewal zone.
The need for 120 beds is not clear; comparing population to other counties in the most incarcerated nation on the planet does not justify it. Especially when most of the people being held have never been convicted of a crime. That is highly unethical and probably illegal.
120 beds is excessive. Stop insisting the government-owned block in the center of downtown is "impossible." Or condemn the north site. (Is North impossible because the NW deep pockets will threaten to stop being boosters to pet projects?) We're not stupid down here.
Please re-approach McFadden (HP campus) or the city of Corvallis (downtown site) to find an appropriate site. Have the courage to do what is right for Benton County and avoid another failed bond measure
Please reject locating the site directly adjacent to existing neighborhoods and select a site away from existing homes.
Please consider allowing more than 100 participants in the zoom sessions
Please consider the needs of trans people in the design
I am steadfastly opposed to either the West or South site, as are all my neighbors. We will be working to actively defeat the bond measure if either of these sites is chosen. PLUS, we DO NOT WANT to import criminals from other counties.
I am concerned that unless the projects are phased in over time, the price tag will be too high for the community to accept. The jail is the most pressing need.
Given the recent changes in Oregon laws, e.g., Measure 110 and growing environmental concerns, e.g., drought, perhaps temporary fixes are better until the best site appears and until we have a chance to see how our current legislative experiments work.
A new jail is a necessity. Resources for mental health and addiction are important. Do we really need a new courthouse or could the current one meet code?
Prepare more improved training, hire more personnel, purchase more advanced protective equipment and then increase patrolling can work much better.
Are you considering air-quality and the results of increased density to these two possible sites (and their neighbors, including travel routes)?
this is just looking like a way to get the bond measure passed.
The immediate downtown area should be minimally impacted by traffic, etc.

Jail should not be near any residential areas even if the costs are high. The bond measure for jail will fail again if this suggestion is ignored.
I know most people don't want to get rid of the old courthouse, but this whole endeavor would go a lot easier if we could use that parcel for part of new law enforcement space. Sell the remnants of it to raise funds. Old building is going to be the gift that never stops giving us headaches as we have to maintain it until "The Big One" takes it down. A new building could be the phoenix rising from its ashes. After a couple years people will forget that old building.
I fear you're up against a deadline and can't decide what to do. Hi Xan, Pat, Nancy.
Your Jail/other bldgs. belong DOWNTOWN...not in residential neighborhoods.
Top-down planning exercises have been doomed to fail for the last half century. Rational-technical approaches to planning conducted entirely behind closed doors by professional experts have no place in a pluralistic society. That's what led to the selection of these two sites. This needs to be a bottom-up effort. The first questions should not be, "what are our goals?" but instead, "what can we reasonably expect to achieve?" The answer to that question would include much more community involvement from the outset. That is not compatible with conducting your site selection in secret because you need to obtain an option to buy before making a site public. It all but rules out any property not already owned by the County. You need to accept that and move forward with that constraint.
Site the Corrections Facility Downtown or another non-residential area.
It was very apparent that many of the participants had no background information or knowledge of the process. The Public needs to be better educated on the need for the larger correctional facility, why the courthouse is no longer functional or safe, etc. There is a large contingent that believes the County can wield their power of imminent domain and force landowners to give them any property they want.
Crisis Center downtown but court, jail and sheriff on west campus.
I strongly urge you to consider the McFadden site, as it seems that both the west and south sites have some issues on some of the points of consideration that the McFadden site would alleviate. Also, I don't think it is good city planning to build a large facility of this nature next door to the county fairgrounds and one of our city's most beloved natural areas.
I think we need to look deeply into what rehabilitation means and the most effective way to service the needs of offenders. Let's look at the studies about incarceration and recidivism, let's be innovators and show how Corvallis and this county are solving problems instead of doing what's always been done and is proven to not work. Finally, I didn't see any data on if this incarceration center be run by a private company, who profits on heads in beds?
This entire project should be scrapped. Make do with 40 beds and look at other models to address criminals and if there is even a need for pre-trial incarceration. Repurpose an existing facility for a courthouse. Treatment and counseling are already available through multiple sources, including the county health department.
Please don’t let a bunch of rich, white neighborhoods out speak south town. South town takes the hit for this Corvallis constantly.
My vote for the bond will be based 100% on proposed location.

It's rather obvious that the Grand Oaks people are doing the NIMBY also so build the damn jail in the downtown area where you already own the land. And all those millions you want to spend for 120 beds??? You've got to be kidding?? I want to see cost comparisons for other jails that have recently been built. Put extra courtrooms in the building and keep it contained to the downtown area. Southtown land is flat and farmable. Let's not gobble up all our agricultural land for another ugly building. The Law Enforcement building should be near the jail in case officers need to restock their vehicles, change clothes, take a break, write reports, etc. And a downtown location would be nearer to the hospital. Are you omitting inmate safety and care as a consideration for site placement?? Having a southern location for a jail would add several minutes to a hospital trip in order to navigate downtown traffic, crosswalks on South 3rd St., the school zone, and multiple bus stops.
I am interested to know about the county paid staffing that has built up around the effort to get a ballot measure passed.
The public outreach has been poor
How about building a new Corvallis police station and converting existing building into correctional facility for both sheriff and CPD?
SLOW DOWN AND RE-EVALUATE!!!!!!!!!! IT'S OK TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ON SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT. (Yes, I'm "yelling" on purpose - pay attention to your constituents)
Need to place causal factors influencing inmate behaviors above lockup head counts
I had to try 4 times to get in, with the 100 maximum that left lots not able to enter, I was tenacious as still trying to get more familiar with the plans, I suspect many just quit after one try.
Doing a rush job and permitting hasty and badly planned development to create the needed infrastructure to service the Jail is short sighted. This will create problems that will spread and become worse over time.
Again, it is reckless and irresponsible to even consider placing a jail across from Bald Hill Natural Area. Families, young children, OSU students, dog walkers, hikers, and the handicapped use all the paths that lead to Bald Hill and Bald Hill proper for daily recreation every hour of the day. Why in the world does it make ANY SENSE to put a jail there. Maybe because it's convenient and cost-effective, but what are the REAL COSTS to ALL of Corvallis and especially those of us who live in proximity. Keep in mind that Bald Hill Natural Area is used by most of Corvallis...it's the most accessible and provides the easiest access to a quiet, natural, peaceful place. If you site the jail on Reservoir Road you will be destroying the reason why Bald Hill, Midge Cramer Path, and Campus Way were created. I've watched as this city and county have approved HUGE student housing complexes to the detriment of the community and the landscape. Now you want to compromise the safety and financial investment of those of us who live near Reservoir Road and forever destroy a recreational natural area that was created to be enjoyed by all Corvallis residents.
I live in Southtown you're willing to give us homeless camps in jails and we can't even get a decent grocery store
Value to me means something worth what you pay for it and what service you get from your acquisition. Of course, not everyone sees value the same. Benton County and Corvallis are a relatively affluent part of the state. We can afford to do things well or at least with a degree of critical thinking. We don't need to settle for the cheapest or most expedient. Further, regarding value, the W. Corvallis site has extensive wetlands and an active creek. So, the site is very limited in usable area and barely meets the minimum requirement of 14 acres. Why acquire land that isn't usable and pay for it?
Residential uses do not belong near a jail or prison. Even the County seems in the ranking system to agree with this. Yet the W. Corvallis site is immediately adjacent to a significant housing development. Seems the County is violating its own criteria and standards. Should this site not be eliminated?

Regarding transportation, the McFadden site is far superior to any other site considered according to the County's own evaluation. Not only is it better, but it is also head and shoulders better. Why is the Commission ignoring this FACT and eliminating the McFadden site? Transportation is one of the advantages of the McFadden property (access to Hwy 20 a probably Circle Blvd) while transportation to W. Corvallis is severely hampered by dangerous roads, lack of transportation services and facilities, poor level of service at key intersections and dangerous (or non-extent) bike and pedestrian facilities. There is no safe or convenient route from the W. Corvallis site to downtown or the campus.
The process the County is following is seriously flawed and lacks accountability and an effective public participation process. The County is not listening to the public and has involved the public too late in the process. The process is driven by a consultant and not by the community or (apparently) even the County Commission. There are very slick and professional exhibits and meetings are very controlled and manipulated by the consultants. But the public has been involved only at the late stages and is being dismissed or "splined to" by the consultants. The public is being disrespected and sidelined at every turn.
The BEST site needs to be back in the mix. The McFadden parcel has been rated BEST by the consultants and by County staff (their own analysis). McFadden may cost more, but price is not an overriding criterion or even the most important criteria. In any case, the County doesn't even know that it would be more expensive. The County very, very clearly can acquire the McFadden site. The only thing that is needed is a County Commission that can direct staff (and the out of town, highly compensate consultants) to put the McFadden site back on the agenda, hire a qualified and experienced person or firm to assist in proceeding with an eminent domain process, hold new rounds of meetings, seek public input, then decide .... which will likely be to pursue the McFadden property. The County can always proceed with eminent domain and secure the property in time to proceed with construction on the County's timeline.
Please continue looking for a suitable site that is away from neighborhoods and natural areas. Somewhere already developed or zoned as industrial
This is an agenda item that the commissioners are rushing to push through without adequate time for the involvement of the citizens of this community. They seem to be putting the needs of hardened criminals ahead of law-abiding tax paying citizens.
1. How can the jail be built to offer more than just a holding place for inmates? I.e.: water catchment, community garden, disaster ready.
I have not been able to find the report that was used to determine the size. also are ancillary facilities to assist the users going to be included in the building. Also, this is the most expensive housing in Benton County and only people who can't use an alternative should be detained there.
I find the attaching of a Mental Health Center that is almost entirely paid for a disingenuous tactic to seek more funding for law enforcement.
I have a hard time supporting you when you won't even do anything about the invasion of homeless. You look the other way when people camp in our parks, break into our cars and rob our homes. But God forbid you have a light out or make an illegal turn, off to jail for anyone with enough money to extort. Are you building the jail to incarcerate anyone who doesn't agree with you?
Citizens should be able to easily attend public input meetings via Zoom, not be blocked by capacity constraint
We will not get a bond passed with little support for the site moving into the process. Please consider other sites beyond the south and west sites. Both are problematic and have strong community opposition.

Please select a solution would solve long-term problems instead of short term. The most important, put the community support be higher priority.
Can the busy two-lane 53rd street without any shoulder allow safe and quick emergency response vehicles to pass without hitting other motorists, considering the addition of 1000-unit Mary's Annexation? How about safety impact to Bald Hills and Fairgrounds with local inmate release? It'll make them more unusable to the public and more difficult to manage for the city/county than the already wasted downtown parks.
I found out about this through word of mouth and then some email communications. While there probably was extensive planning around this, it feels like a $10M decision is being communicated and approved in a span of 4 months. This also was being done without really relying on any community input, whatsoever.
I plan to vote against any bond measure for this as none of the proposed locations are acceptable.
Does the public get a chance to vote on this issue?
How did the site selection process go so wrong in excluding the highest ranked site that would be much better for the city and county in terms of access, and impact?
I was locked out of the meeting, despite registering early. My voice was not heard
Unfortunately, I am one of the community members who registered and could not get into the zoom meeting due to the 100-person limit. But I've done as much reading as I can and have requested a couple times by email that a recording be posted, and the link be sent to community members (or at the very least all of us who registered). Haven't received notice about that yet.
Thank you for your work on improving our justice system. And thank you, Commissioners, for postponing yesterday's vote on the site selection. Since I worked all weekend and this week, I only now have the time to begin drafting letters, and I know several neighbors will soon be sending in comments as well.
You guys seem clueless on the criticality and implications of siting on bond measure success or failure

Appendix D: Questions and Answers

At the September 8 Virtual Community Meetings, as well as the September 29 Grand Oaks Neighborhood Zoom Meeting, participants asked a wide range of questions in the Zoom chat and Q&A function. After each meeting, staff consolidated questions, wrote answers, and posted questions and answers for that meeting on the program website. Below are the website questions and answers, organized by meeting date.

September 8 Virtual Community Meeting Questions and Answers

Q: Are people at the Courthouse aware the victims are not separate and in close quarters to the accused?
A: As it currently stands, the Historic Courthouse does not provide the means for keeping crime victims entirely separated from the accused. This is a shortcoming of the Historic Courthouse and is something that a new courthouse will address.

Q: Are the proposed facilities designed with flexibility in mind for future needs?
A: DLR Group, an engineering and design firm hired by the County to manage facilities work in the Predesign Phase, is designing the facilities with a 40- to 50-year horizon. One of the primary drivers in the suburban site selection process was room for expansion.

The actual design of facilities does not occur until the next phase of the program, called the Implementation Phase. However, DLR Group's conceptual designs during the current phase incorporate flexibility that will allow us to meet best practices as we move forward.

Q: Are there any opportunities for the County and City to house their court functions in the same building for County/City efficiencies?
A: The City and County have collaborated on the Justice System Improvement Program dating back to the Criminal Justice System Assessment and throughout the program's Predesign Phase. There is an ongoing collaboration between our respective law enforcement agencies, between the County Administrator and City Manager, between elected officials, and on our Justice System Improvement Program Technical and Community Advisory Committees. In the early stages of the Predesign phase, there was a discussion between the County and City regarding housing the City's Municipal Court in the proposed new County Courthouse. Ultimately, the proposal was dismissed; the City will manage its Municipal Court needs.

Q: Are there potential drawbacks for a downtown location for the new courthouse?
A: There are some challenges, including:

1. The County is negotiating to purchase property adjacent to the County's 5th Street building, but the site is not been secured by a Letter of Intent to date.
2. Development cost is higher, primarily because of the size and shape of the site under consideration downtown.
3. Parking is always a constraint downtown.

Q: Can you tell me more about the Emergency Operations Center?
A: The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provides space for both training and emergency operations activities. Currently, the County does not have an EOC that's sufficient in size to serve the County's

needs. When the EOC was activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County utilized four different facilities, moving three times. The proposed Emergency Operations Center is approximately 10,000 square feet, and can be either a standalone facility or integrated into a new law enforcement building. Like a law enforcement building, an EOC is built to robust standards in order to withstand severe seismic or weather events. When not being used for emergency operations, it can be used for training or meeting purposes by the County, other municipalities, or by the public. The proposed EOC will include various sized/configurable meeting spaces, restroom facilities, kitchen, and support service space.

Q: Has a traffic impact study been done for the west location? The existing roads, West Hills, Harrison, and Philomath highway are substandard and over used now.
A: A traffic impact study is underway, with data collection beginning once OSU fall term begins. A similar study was conducted for the south site earlier this year. Results from the west site traffic study are expected in mid-October 2021.

Q: Has any of the funding come from COVID relief funds?
A: The County is fortunate to have the opportunity to seek additional funding for many County programs due to COVID relief funds. We are seeking $1 million in American Rescue Plan funding for our Emergency Operations Center. Our Crisis Center is also receiving funding ($2.25 million to date) from the State and Federal government, in part through American Rescue Plan dollars. - Answered by Commissioner Xan Augerot during the September 8 meeting

Q: Have you considered implementing a local sales tax so that the cost of these facilities is not placed squarely on property owners?
A: Sales taxation is not within the scope of the Justice System Improvement Program.

Q: How can you reassure the public that an increase in jail beds won't lead to an increase in arrests? Will you be collecting data to examine for this possibility?
A: A programmatic element of the Justice System Improvement Program is Data Evaluation and Metrics, which will measure the program's success, ensure equitable practices, and to monitor outcomes like arrest rates.

At the same time it is important to note that Benton County's arrest rate has been impacted by its lack of jail space. The County's use of cite and release, rather than arrest, is 2- to 3-times what is considered the norm, based on the conclusions of CGL, who conducted the Assessment, at the outset of the Justice System Improvement Program. Data will help the County establish, monitor, and maintain an appropriate arrest rate, and to analyze and understand trends and changes.

Q: How do the percentages of BIPOC people arrested and/or incarcerated compare to the percentage they make up of our community's population? In other words, is there much racial disproportionality in our local justice system?
A: As part of the 2018 Criminal Justice System Assessment, Benton County looked into this very question. We found that due to the lack of representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals within the Benton County population, anytime a BIPOC individual is in custody, it is an overrepresentation. Benton County is engaging Ari Basil-Wagner with Greater Oregon Behavior Health, Inc. to update the data that was gathered during our 2018 assessment. When we have that updated data, we will be better equipped to see trends over time and other valuable insights. Answered by Commissioner Xan Augerot during the September 8 meeting.

Q: How does the location of the corrections facility impact the operational costs with concepts 1 -2 and concept 3?
A: The difference in operating costs between the west and south sites is virtually nonexistent. This is because both sites will require the adults in custody be transported to downtown Corvallis, and the drive times from either site to downtown are essentially equal.

Both sites offer good access to and from the rest of the County. The primary operations considerations are the location of the proposed new courthouse, whether co-located with the proposed correctional facility and Sheriff's Office on the south or west site, or located downtown.

Q: If the courthouse is deemed too unsafe for the public as a courthouse, how will it be deemed safe for the public as not a courthouse?
A: Courthouse safety falls into several categories, but the two primary categories discussed during the September 8 meeting were seismic safety and public safety relative to courthouse operations.

If the historic Benton County courthouse is no longer used as a courthouse (likely due to construction of a new, modern courthouse) then operational safety will no longer be an issue. Regarding seismic safety, the historic Courthouse does not meet current seismic standards, but it is not structurally unsafe. The Commissioners discussed the seismic shortcomings of the Historic Courthouse in 2020 and agreed that upgrades need to be made if the Courthouse will continue to be used for County government functions.

Q: If we seriously implement CAHOOTS-like solutions over the next few years, are we going to end up with a jail that's just too big?
A: The proposed new Correctional Facility size of approximately 120 beds is based on conclusions by CGL, who conducted the Justice System Improvement Program Assessment. These conclusions were verified in 2020 by DLR Group, the County's consultant on the Justice System Improvement Program's Predesign Phase.

The size recommendation considers various programs, many of which the County is pursuing or implementing, that reduce the number of adults in custody. It's important to note that on average, across the nation and in Oregon, correctional facilities typically operate at no more than 80 percent capacity. This means on any given day, a 120-bed facility has no more than 96 adults in custody. In the unlikely event Benton County is extremely successful at reducing the number of adults in custody, the County is confident it could rent beds to one of the neighboring four counties.

Q: Is the south site in a 100-year floodplain?
A: The south site is not in a 100-year floodplain. There is a 100-year floodplain site to the north of the south site. The County is aware of the possibility, though remote, of the south site being cut off from a direct route north on OR 99W to downtown Corvallis due to flooding in south Corvallis. The Benton County Board of Commissioners will consider that risk when making a final site selection decision.

Q: What are the additional annual operational costs if the Courthouse is not co-located with the Correctional Facility?
A: To date, the costs have not been studied in detail. The answer depends on the number of transports per week, and that could change in a post-COVID pandemic world. A detailed study will be conducted for the Board of Commissioners' consideration prior to making a final decision on a location for the proposed new courthouse.

Q: What are the realms of ideas for how the courthouse would be used for otherwise?
A: The Historic Benton County Courthouse Feasibility Study, which describes options for repurposing the courthouse, is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, November 9, during the Board's Goal Setting meeting. The Feasibility Study will be posted to the Justice System Improvement Program's website shortly after.

Q: What are the tax ramifications of this bond? What will this cost us?
A: The final bond measure amount has not been determined. Based on the 2020 property tax roll (the 2021 tax roll has not been finalized), if the bond were $100 million, the cost for the average Benton County property owner is about $.80 per $1,000 in assessed value. For a home with an assessed value of $350,000, the rate equates to a $280 tax increase. The rate will be updated when the 2021 tax roll is available, and again when the final bond amount is determined, sometime in 2022.

Q: Where are the equity considerations on these locations?
A: Site selection began in June 2020 and included an exhaustive, objective data-driven process. The entire process was as follows:

1. Mapped areas of 15 acres or more in or near the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary.
2. Weighted 40+ possible sites using 32 factors.
3. Narrowed to 10 properties – 5 downtown, 5 suburban.
4. County and real estate broker approached property owners to explore viability of sale.
5. Narrowed sites to 3 based on outcome of #4 – 1 downtown, 2 suburban.
6. Joint City and County task force formed to conduct due-diligence investigations.
7. Board of Commissioners appointed purchase negotiating team to advance Letters of Intent.
8. Currently testing 3 site-specific conceptual designs with the County community.

Sites across all geographic locations in or near the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary were considered initially, before being weighed and explored for purchase. In early 2021, the County pursued a site in north Corvallis adjacent to Hewlett-Packard, but the owner decided against selling.

Q: Where is the west site relative to the Corvallis Fault?
A: The Corvallis Fault does not intersect the site. It runs to the northwest and southwest of the site.

Q: Why are we no longer renting beds from Lincoln County?
A: Benton County did rent beds from Lincoln County at one time. However, Lincoln County has taken a different direction relative to the use of its facility and has stopped renting beds to other counties. Answered by Sheriff Van Arsdall during the September 8 meeting.

Q: Will the RV park being built in Philomath be taken into consideration when conducting the Traffic Impact Analysis?
A: Traffic study counts will begin immediately following OSU's fall term beginning, with the study completed by mid-October 2021. Whether or not the RV park is included in the study will depend on the opening date of the park.

Q: With people being directed to the Crisis Center, would you expect the jail population to decrease?
A: The purpose of the Crisis Center is to provide a treatment-centered alternative to incarceration or the emergency room. As such, the County expects the Crisis Center, and other programs it is implementing

as part of the Justice System Improvement Program, including its behavioral health/law enforcement co-response team, and enhanced pretrial services, to help reduce incarcerations.

Grand Oaks Neighborhood Sept. 29 Meeting Questions and Answers

Q: Are you going to add a lane to 53rd and to Reservoir?
A: The bond measure may include transportation improvements in the area of 53rd Street and Reservoir Road, but specific improvements have not been discussed to date.

Q: Are you going to expand the roads around this to prevent traffic pile up?
A: Traffic improvements on 53rd Street could be made in conjunction with the bond measure.

Q: Can the old courthouse be deconstructed and reconstructed somewhere else in the county (as a museum, maybe?), so that the land could be used to build a new Sheriff's office +jail + emergency center + Elections office + DA's office?
A: DLR Group concluded, based on the historic Courthouse's unreinforced masonry concrete construction, the building could not be deconstructed and reconstructed elsewhere.

Q: Can you provide us an accurate study about the reduction of property values when a new center is built (not when existing centers are improved in existing locations)?
A: Yes, please see Correctional Facility Establishments and Neighborhood Housing Characteristics, by Kelly McGeever, 2018

Q: Can you provide us with the study or data summary that recommends a 120-bed correctional facility for Benton County?
A: Please see pages 92-93 of the Assessment, which DLR Group updated as part of its Predesign work. The 120-bed recommendation is an approximation, not an absolute.

Q: Did the data include proximity to quiet peaceful neighborhoods and the impact to their residents and property values?
A: Proximity to a neighborhood was one of many site selection criteria.

Q: Do you have any examples of other towns of similar size that have jails that are not in commercial or retail districts but instead are in residential areas?
A: SCORE Correctional Facility, in Des Moines, WA: https://goo.gl/maps/3bGmf9kUm7N5ybLp8 Coffee Creek Correctional Center, in Wilsonville, OR: Borders residences to its east: https://goo.gl/maps/MssXuiS15wU4GWcA6

Crook County Jail, in Prineville, OR: It's in an urban setting, but directly adjacent to many single family residences: https://goo.gl/maps/yLyA5ejsoGxP5SP48

Maui Community Correctional Facility, in Wailuku, HI: https://goo.gl/maps/VjgMZ5x43BfUgM198

Q: How about light pollution to nearby houses?
A: Overall, the proposed facilities require no excessive lighting. For example, there will not be searchlights or anything designed that is beyond the lighting required by code for walking paths, parking lots, and door entries.

Q: How much does the new facility cost? Plus the budget for additional staffing?
A: Proposed facility costs (in $ millions) are as follows (net of state/federal allocations):

Correctional Facility	$50
Crisis Center	$2-$5
New Courthouse with District Attorney	$35
Sheriff's Office without/with Emergency Operations Center	$16-$25
Repurposing Historic Benton County Courthouse	$0-$20

These are the best cost ranges available to us at this time, in the absence of engineering design documents. Operation costs will be planned for and factored into the next two biennium budgets (2023-25 and 2025-27) to support an expansion of staff for the Justice System Improvement Program, or other County operations. With the proposed new Correctional Facility, the County will no longer need to spend up to $1.5 million annually on out-of-county jail beds and associated transportation.

Q: How will you address the issues we already have with people walking on the rail tracks and getting injured? It seems like that will be a common path from this facility.
A: On release, adults in custody will have several options for transportation including being met by family or friends, public transportation, transportation by the CORE Team or Sheriff's Office to the Crisis Center, possibly leveraging the Sheriff's court transport process to downtown (assuming the new Courthouse is not on site), or use of multi-model paths, whether on foot or by bicycle.

Q: How would this add to the traffic, and what mitigation plans are in the works, particularly given that these two projects would have completion dates around the same time?
A: A traffic impact study is underway and will consider impacts from the Mary's Annexation development. We will keep our communities informed as we have more information.

Q: I was told the county was concerned about the "potential decrease in industrial property values" if located by the airport. Why are they not concerned about OUR neighborhood property values?
A: The County does not own the land at the Airport Industrial Park; it is owned by the City of Corvallis. Justice system facilities do not align with the City's economic development plans for the Airport Park. The City's concern was not centered on property valuation, but preserving City-owned land for economic development.

Q: If Napa County can rebuild their historic courthouse after a destructive earthquake with no cost to residents, why can't Benton?
A: The cost of rebuilding the Napa County Courthouse was primarily covered by insurance, the State of California and the federal government after damage in an earthquake. In Oregon, the State only contributes funds for new courthouse facilities and does not contribute funds to rebuild or add on to historic courthouses. The funding model for repurposing the historic Benton County Courthouse has not been determined, but we will be looking at all possible sources.

Q: If recidivism is a problem, then it would seem that offenders are indeed released into the community. Thus, what would make you think that releasing inmates into/adjacent to Grand Oaks is a good idea?
A: By definition, when adults in custody are released, they are released into the community. Currently, the County releases adults in custody downtown, not far from the public library and residential housing. If a new correctional facility is constructed on either of the proposed suburban sites, the County is committed to providing options for adults in custody on release to get to where they want to go.

Q: If we're planning to bus people anyway, then yes why not pick something out of town?
A: Our preferred option is a campus approach to our justice system facilities, due to the operational and cost efficiencies. Courthouses are sited in the County seat, i.e., Corvallis. We do not expect the correctional facility to be a scar on the landscape – our current jail is in the middle of downtown.

Q: Is a higher incarceration rate better?
A: The goal of the Justice System Improvement Program is not a higher incarceration rate. The goal is to:

- Reduce the rate of recidivism, i.e., repeat offense and incarceration.
- Reduce the rate of failure to appear at Court hearings. Failure to appear results in high cost of staff time and creates an increased risk to community safety.
- To bring the use of cite and release closer to a best practice rate, and eliminate it for repeat offenders.

Q: Please state the distance from an elementary school that a facility such as this needs to be.
A: There are not currently regulations governing the distance between an elementary school and justice system facilities, including a correctional facility.

Q: Rather than building new facilities, can the existing jail, facilities downtown or in the Sunset Research Park be repurposed?
A: We are repurposing the Board of Commissioners Office for use as a Crisis Center. The jail has been remodeled and expanded to the extent possible since it was built in 1977. DLR Group studied repurposing or upgrading the existing jail and concluded it was not structurally or financially feasible. DLR Group also studied repurposing other County facilities, either for the structure or use of the land. These facilities were rejected for various reasons, including displacing existing services, construction limitations, zoning, etc. Other downtown sites were explored, but none met our requirements.

Q: So the fact that utilities have been brought out for a residential neighborhood is a reason to bring the jail here?
A: The proposed west site is zoned Intensive Industrial. There are already utilities on site to serve existing industrial businesses.

Q: The west site is outside of the city limits, who will fund the new bus service to go to it? Or is the plan to direct people into the neighborhood to access a bus stop?
A: The west site is inside Corvallis City limits. The County's objective is to provide a public transit solution, whether extension of existing bus route or creation of a governmental services shuttle, to the justice system campus.

Q: There are no arterial roads from downtown to the proposed west campus on 53rd. Wouldn't it be better for response times and transport needs to locate it on OR 99W?
A: The Sheriff's Office adjusts response routes depending on time of day and traffic conditions.

Drive time to downtown from the proposed south and west sites is 8 and 10 minutes respectively. Access to other parts of the County depends on the starting and ending location. For example, the response time will be quicker from the south location to the City of Monroe, but slower than the west site to Philomath or North Albany. Either suburban site has the potential to reduce some rural response times.

Q: Was this cost estimate obtained during this time 2020-2021? Is it possible we will come down a bit closer to the $25M for the correctional facility for example?
A: DLR Group's estimates indicate that while the rate of construction cost escalation will likely slow, it will not retreat. Looking ahead, it is unlikely the proposed new Correctional Facility will ever cost less, and more likely the cost will continue to climb.

Q: Were any sites in north Corvallis considered? Was anything on 9th even considered?
A: Sites were considered all across Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary, including north Corvallis.

Q: What are the neighborhood lockdown plans when you have an armed escapee?
A: In the unlikely event that an adult in custody escaped the Correctional Facility, the County can activate a reverse 911 system, which would contact residents in the nearby vicinity. Response plans would depend on situational factors. The County, even with its outdated jail, has not had an escape in over 20 years.

Q: What have you done to address the Downtown Business Owner's associations objections to the most reasonable location for these facilities (downtown)?
A: Downtown business owners and associations have not objected to citing justice system facilities downtown, nor has the City of Corvallis.
The County's site selection process considered various sites downtown. All were rejected or abandoned, except the current site (parking area) adjacent to the Board of Commissioners office. That site has not been secured by contract and remains under negotiation. No site downtown was large enough to accommodate a single-level correctional facility (a multi-level facility was deemed operationally cost prohibitive).

Q: What is the plan for when the Bond Measure fails?
A: We will continue to explore contingency plans and alternatives as the November 2022 bond measure approaches.

Q: What is the plan to upgrade the transportation resources to support this facility?
A: We are working to with the City of Corvallis to explore options to provide public transportation to support justice system facilities.

Q: Which elected officials support this proposal? Could you please provide their contact info?
A: All of the commissioners support the Justice System Improvement Program. The final details of the proposal for a bond measure will be decided in spring 2022. Contact information for Benton County Commissioners is available at https://co.benton.or.us/boc/custom-contact-page/board-commissioners

Q: Why are all your choices near the urban growth boundary?
A: The sites under consideration were chosen based on many criteria and where land was available for purchase.

Q: Why are two of the three proposed locations near residential neighborhoods? Why not out by the airport? Why not keep it downtown by renovating space? Why not some other industrial area?
A: A site in the City's Airport Industrial Park was considered. The County does not own the land at the Airport Industrial Park; it is owned by the City of Corvallis.

Justice system facilities do not align with the City's economic development plans for the Airport Industrial Park. There is not another industrial area in Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary that meets the needs of JSIP and offers a viable property. There is not sufficient space downtown, for purchase or renovation, to accommodate a single-level correctional facility (a multi-level facility was deemed operationally cost-prohibitive).

Q: Why do you propose to place these facilities so near GO, Bald Hill and the Fairgrounds? Are there not properties where there is a lower residential population and fewer high-use recreational areas?
A: After an exhaustive search for sites of suitable size and configuration, these two suburban sites were the two identified that the County was able to identify and secure.

Q: Why does it have to be within city boundary?
A: All of the proposed functions/facilities exist within Corvallis city limits today. The importance of locating the proposed new facilities within or immediately adjacent to Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary is to provide utility services at a reasonable cost. Additionally, the proposed justice facilities are part of a system – that work together – their close proximity supports best practices. Traditionally, Because Corvallis is the Benton County seat, and more than 60% of the County population is located within the city, an urban site provides the best accessibility to potential clients, adults in custody and family members.

Q: Why is funding for the jail, which has been notoriously unsuccessful, tied to funding for a crisis center and homeless shelter we desperately need and want?
A: The Board of Commissioners has not yet determined which facilities to include in the justice system bond measure. The County will establish a Crisis Center regardless of the bond measure. At the same time, a Crisis Center is a critical part of the County's justice system, as is a Correctional Facility. The two facilities are linked by the services they provide, and each is important in creating a justice system for the future based on best practices.

Q: Why is the crisis center ask only $5M, which is 1/10th of the $50m ask for the jail? What does this say about county priorities?
A: The Crisis Center is an important part of the larger criminal justice continuum. The County has made the decision to create the Crisis Center by utilizing existing county property, which significantly decreases the cost of the center. The future Crisis Center will include trauma-informed space to best meet the needs of the individuals being served.

The size of the facility directly impacts the cost of the facility. The Crisis Center will provide approximately 7,000 square feet for care and treatment. This is in comparison to the projected 59,000 square feet for the county corrections facility.

While the Crisis Center will need some safety precautions, safety and security are not the primary focus. Safety is the primary focus for the Correctional Facility. That directly impacts the costs of both facilities.

Q: Why was the donation of the Burger King property downtown turned down by the county?
A: No such offer was made to the County.

Q: Will inmates families be able to visit them easily when the jail is located on a remote bus line?
A: Yes, and more easily than driving or taking public transit to Polk or Wasco Counties.

Q: Will prisoners be released in front of the prison into an area with no resources and very limited transportation? What will the effect of doing this be on bald hill natural area, the fairgrounds, and tailgating/shuttle for OSU football games?
A: Adults in custody may be released at the site, whether to meet a family member or loved one, to catch public transit to another part of Corvallis or the transit center downtown, or to possibly bike or walk to another destination. As with adults in custody who are currently released downtown (a block and a half from the public library), any impact is expected to be minimal and manageable. The County is committed to providing options for adults in custody on release to get to where they want to go.

Q: Will there be emergency sirens at this site that break into the serenity of Bald Hill?
A: Emergency responders of all types use sirens across the county today.

October 13 Virtual Community Meeting Questions and Answers

Q: The criteria eliminated residential zones, but not locations adjacent to residential neighborhoods. How does the criteria address proximity to residential zoning?
A: The first review of all sites eliminated sites zoned Residential or designated Residential in the Comprehensive Plan. Regarding the residential proximity, the ranking criteria included the following: Adjacent to existing residential: No = +1, One side = 0, Two sides = -1. The County understands there are concerns from residents near both proposed sites regarding the siting of a correctional facility near neighborhoods.

Q: Have the impacts on communities outside of Corvallis (Monroe, Alsea, etc.) been included and considered in the location and planning?
A: Yes, the impact on all communities in Benton County is a crucial consideration for the program and the Board of Commissioners. A primary consideration of site selection regarding the impacts on communities outside of Corvallis is the Sheriff Office's access to all points in the County. Specifically, if deputies are dispatched centrally from the Sheriff's Office, rather than on patrol. On the occasions when a centrally dispatched response is necessary, the ease and options by which a deputy can to get to a location is important.

Q: Please explain, in detail, how the sites were originally identified, how they were narrowed down, how property owners were approached, and what contractual obligations property owners and the County currently have, including deadlines and costs.
A: The PowerPoint presentation from the October 13 Community Meeting describes the site selection process. Property owners were approached by either a real estate broker retained by the County, a commissioner-appointed negotiating team, or both. Details on contractual obligations can be obtained by submitting a Public Records Request in writing to County Counsel.

Q: Why are you only discussing 2 locations when my understanding is that there are 3 locations being considered?
A: The County is considering two suburban locations and one downtown location. The suburban locations – known as the west and south sites– are large enough to support a complete justice system campus, including a correctional facility, Sheriff's Office, and new courthouse. The downtown location is smaller and its purchase remains under negotiation. The downtown site could support the proposed new courthouse, but it is not contemplated for either a correctional facility or Sheriff's Office. Note: the final location of the proposed new courthouse has not been determined.

Q: Are the downtown and north sites (also referred to as HP or McFadden) still in consideration? If not, then why?
A: A downtown site is contemplated for proposed new courthouse only. Regarding a north site, Benton County currently has letters of intent (LOI) to purchase two properties. Those two properties are the focus of our current community outreach and comment. While we have LOIs for those two properties, we are not locked in to one or both properties. If another property becomes available that might fit our justice system improvement objectives, we owe it to the tax payers of this county to at least explore its viability right up until the time we purchase a parcel of land. The County is engaging in exploratory discussions with a representative of McFadden Ranch, LLC, but doesn't not have an LOI for a north property at this time.

Q: Can we see a map of the original top 10?
A: Please see the Site Summary Analysis on the JSIP website.

Q: What are the next steps and timing for the selection of the site?
A: The commissioners hope to make a site selection decision by mid- to late-November. The commissioners will continue to consider existing and new comparative information on the proposed sites, as well as public feedback, to reach a decision.

Q: If the North site meets the criteria better than the other sites, why not use a tool like eminent domain to purchase it?
A: The Board of Commissioners prefers to acquire real estate through a negotiated process.

Q: Please provide a map of the locations.
A: Please see September 8 presentation, slides 16-18.

Q: Is there any information on what this facility might look like, size of footprint, area of pavement, etc?
A: The Justice System Improvement Program is currently in the Predesign Phase, which does not include detailed architectural design. The Design Phase will follow the success of the 2022 bond measure and will include additional rounds of public engagement. Please see the Concept Test Fits document for examples of modern justice system architecture and shows sizing of the proposed facilities and paring relative to the proposed sites. However, the test fits are **not** designs or site plans; their intent is simply to validate how the proposed facilities and supporting parking could "fit" on the site.

Q: Can you share your flood analysis with the community?
A: The analysis is as follows: Neither site is in a floodplain, nor immune from adverse effects of a 1:100-year flood event, as described in FEMA's flood risk ratings. As such, the criteria used to evaluate the sites is more practical: What is the likelihood of flood event cutting off access (likely = 0, unlikely = 1)?

The Mary's River confluence is known to flood, and relatively frequently. On flooding, the proposed south site is isolated from points north of the river, except possibly by a circuitous route via Airport Road to the west and north. The same is not true for the proposed west site. The railway underpass floods relatively frequently, but Reservoir Road, in conjunction with other arterials, can be used to reach points west and south with relative ease. So, then the question is, would flooding at 53rd and Harrison cut-off points to the north of the west site? On checking with Public Works, that intersection hasn't been rendered impassible, not even during the 1996 flood event, so the conclusion is, based on the criteria, a flood event (any flood, not just FEMA's 1:100-year event) is less likely to cut off the west site than the south.

Q: Did you consider noise and light pollution impacts for the different locations? In relation to both people and endangered species in the Bald Hill Natural area?
A: Noise and light are considered as part of the permitting process. The County anticipates both noise and light impacts to be minimal. Overall, the proposed facilities require no excessive lighting. For example, there will not be searchlights or anything designed that is beyond the lighting required by code for walking paths, parking lots, and door entries. Noise will be limited to the occasional siren. Emergency responders of all types use sirens across the County today.

Q: Will you share the data from the site selection criteria with all of us, including the scores?
A: Please see the Viability Matrix Starter with CBD.

Q: Please explain how the County developed the matrix for evaluating the costs and benefits of each location. Why and how were the weights assigned? Why were the variables only considered only on a 0/1 measure?
A: The County developed the site selection criteria based on project goals and DLR Group's extensive knowledge siting and developing justice system facilities. DLR Group conducted extensive stakeholder interviews, which helped inform the criteria, and reviewed the criteria with the program's Operations Team, Community and Technical Advisory Committees, and the commissioners. The criteria is scored on a 0 to 1 scale because it functions as a way to simply count the positive attributes of a site. Attributes are weighted based on the priorities expressed by the commissioners.

Q: You have stated that Sheriff's deputies will typically respond from where they are deployed and not from the facility. Based on that, why is response time a major criteria in your site selection?
A: Sheriff's response access (to all parts of the county), and response time to downtown, are two of many criteria used to rank the sites. Response time to downtown is essentially the same for both the south and west sites, so it's not a differentiator. However, Sheriff's response access, is a differentiator, with the west site more centrally located than south relative to County population centers. Sheriff's deputies routinely patrol the County which may alleviate some pressure on the Sheriff's Office regarding response times, but it doesn't erase the importance of access, and especially in situations where specialized or augmented response is necessary.

Q: Given that all 3 options are unpopular with neighbors, how are the cost of the project and the relative wealth of the various communities weighed in the decision-making process?
A: Currently, there are three proposed sites for justice system facilities: two suburban sites – known as the south and west sites – and a smaller site downtown that could accommodate the proposed new courthouse. Based on the public engagement conducted to date, the County is not aware the proposed downtown site is unpopular with neighbors. That said, the cost and acquisition and development of all proposed sites is a factor in site selection, as all Benton County residents will share the cost through their property taxes. Similarly, the overall cost of the bond measure is a consideration, one which the Commissioners will have to consider relative to a bond package next year. The relative wealth of the various communities is not a consideration relative to site selection, and was not part of site selection criteria.

Q: How are adults in custody being released and safety issues being addressed? Have you assessed the pathway released prisoners will take from jail back to downtown?
A: Adults in custody may be released at the site, whether to meet a family member or loved one, to catch public transit to another part of Corvallis or the transit center downtown, or to possibly bike or walk to another destination. As with adults in custody who are currently released downtown (a block and a half from the public library and with easy access to the OSU campus), any impact is expected to be minimal and manageable. The County is committed to providing options for adults in custody on release to get to where they want to go.

Q: The community of South Corvallis has been going through an urban renewal process. Will the location create complications for this? And will the community continue to be an inviting location where people stop and feel comfortable?
A: The City of Corvallis' Community Development Department has been very supportive of developing the proposed south site for justice system facilities. Were the south site developed, the County would become the "anchor" tenant, meaning the County would fund the building of roads and other infrastructure that would support additional development.

In terms of compatibility, the current jail and Sheriff's Office are downtown, across the street from one another, and just a couple of blocks from restaurants, bike shops, the library, and City Hall, so no complications are anticipated. The architecture and land- and hardscaping will render the facilities virtually indistinguishable from other modern office buildings. Additionally, the County is studying its release and transportation options of adults in custody, to assure it is done in a safe, humane, and equitable manner.

Q: Given what we know about the criminal justice system and the specific nature of the types of people who commit crimes in Benton County, please explain why the building of such a large the jail is necessary. Why is the funding of the jail the half of the bond ask?
A: Please see pages 92-93 of the Assessment, which DLR Group updated as part of its Predesign work. The 120-bed recommendation is an approximation, not an absolute.

Q: How much of our county resources go to mental health verses "traditional policing?"
A: From the 2021-23 Biennium Budget, Behavioral Health's budget totals +/- $24.3 million. In comparison, the Sheriff's Office budget totals +/- $38.4 million, of which +/- $33.7 million is attributed to Patrol and Investigation, Corrections, and Parole and Probation.

Q: Community member was curious about the bed ratio to population, compared to neighboring communities.
A:

2018 Data

County	Beds	Population	Beds per Capita
Yamhill	259	106,367	0.24350%
Polk	195	84,992	0.22943%
Linn	230	127,451	0.18046%
Lincoln	161	49,224	0.32708%
Lane	407	378,549	0.10752%
Benton	40	92,442	0.04327%

Q: Have you factored in the increased cost of staffing a jail with 120 beds and is it sustainable?
A: The operational cost of housing an adult in custody (AIC) is essentially the same as housing an AIC out-of-county (including transportation expense) – about $100 per day. The County will incur additional expenses related to in-custody treatment and rehabilitative programs it offers. The cost of programs is not insignificant (as outlined in the Benton County Criminal Justice Assessment, January 2019), but well within the County's budget to provide them in a sustainable manner.

Q: Can you share the current rate of Cite and Release Arrests the Sheriff's Department currently makes?
A: As of the week of October 18, deputies issued 600 citations in lieu of custody year to date. Through all of last year, the Sheriff's Office issued 608 of the same citations. Currently, I have directed the jail to only accept A and B felonies, and mandatory arrests (domestic violence, restraining order violations, protective order violations, no contact violations). I have directed Captain DeVaney to get us to 22 occupied beds in NORCOR (if possible). As our facility allows, we can adjust and take some of the PPS (post-prison supervision) who have absconded, failed to comply, etc… I recently met with Municipal Court Judge Blake (Corvallis, Philomath, Monroe) regarding a request he had made regarding taking municipal court FTA's into the facility. At this point, it's just not an option. - Answered by Sheriff Van Arsdall

Q: If you weren't under a deadline, would some of the other sites that have been presented at various meetings still be on the table? If so, have you considered postponing the decision to secure a site without as many development challenges as either the west or south site?
A: The suburban sites currently and formerly under consideration all made the County's top-5 list. Sites that previously dropped off the list were the result of factors that were not time dependent. The current

decision timeline has been extended to the end of November for consideration of all information and options in advance of making a site selection decision.

Q: What is the deadline that everyone keeps referring to?
A: The deadline refers to a site selection decision. Both the proposed south and west sites are secured by Letters of Intent which require the County to enter into a Purchase and Sale agreement in December or forfeit its purchase option.

Q: Does the County have a plan to reach the mostly low-income residents immediately surrounding the west site?
A: Yes. As public engagement continues in 2022, the communications team will be making concerted efforts to connect with all communities through a variety of public engagement strategies including information sessions and personal conversations.

Q: What was the target number of citizens in South Corvallis/ West Hills intended to be "aware" of the possible siting of a jail complex nearby?
A: Public engagement was not specific to the West Hills Area or South Corvallis. It was intended to reach as many people as possible across the County through small group conversations, speaking engagements and community meetings. In all, the County conducted more than 30 engagement sessions.

Q: How is the known congestion and increase of congestion expected (data/statistically supported) with growth in the area been considered with regards to accessibility of the west site?
A: Please see the Correctional Facility Traffic Analysis.

Q: Have the combined storm/sewer issues with the west site been accounted for in the site selection?
A: DLR Group and the County have considered both storm water run-off, sewer connection, and other utilities for each of the proposed suburban sites.

Q: Making the Courthouse ADA compliant isn't a priority?
A: Making the proposed new courthouse ADA compliant is not only a priority, but required by building code. It is a primary driver for a new courthouse, and a major shortcoming of the existing historic Benton County Courthouse.

Q: When you calculate the cost, is the impact on property values considered or it is simply assumed away?
A: Please see the Correctional Facility Establishments and Neighborhood Housing Characteristics, by Kelly McGeever, 2018, which supports property values are not negatively impacted by proximity to correctional facilities.

Q: How are you contracting out beds? I'd like to know the cost, frequency and the process.
A: Both Polk and Linn Counties hold pretrial adults in custody (AIC). Each of those beds cost $95.00 per day. In Polk County, we pay for 10 beds whether they are full or not, so we always keep them full. We switch out subjects in Polk County due to court appearances. Linn County only houses for us every so often in an emergency situation, or an AIC has a specific issue with one of our staff. (We had an on-call deputy being stalked by one of AICs, so he was held at Linn.)

NORCOR houses our sentenced AICs and can house pretrial AICs with the approval of their attorney. At this time, there are no pretrial AICs at NORCOR. These beds are $73.56 per day for the first 22 beds. We pay for those whether they are full or not. After the first 22, we pay $52.54 per bed for up to 40 beds. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our AICs house out of county only number in the teens and sometimes single digits due to courts not operating at full capacity.

We transport to NORCOR twice per week. Those sent to NORCOR either turn themselves in at the Benton County Jail, or are post-prison supervision subjects who are arrested and then sanctioned by their parole officer. Drug treatment Court sanctions are also sent to NORCOR if the duration is long enough for the transport. - Answered by Sheriff Van Arsdall

Q: What is the cost difference between the west and south sites and these other potential sites? How does that break down per household?
A: The acquisition and development cost difference between the proposed west and south sites is an approximate $5-10 million dollars more for the south site. Using an average of $7.5 million, it's an increase of about $0.06 per $1,000 of assessed value, or $15 per year more for a home with an assessed value of $250,000.

Q: When the project comes out on the ballot to vote on, will the detailed impacts to our tax bill be included so people are fully informed on the cost?
A: Yes. Oregon form SEL-801, Notice of Measure Election, must be filed with the County Clerk's Office to put a local tax measure on a ballot. This form requires the County to explain tax impacts should the measure pass.

Q: Wouldn't a larger facility require additional personnel to operate? Where is the operational/maintenance plan?
A: A larger correctional facility will require additional staff. DLR Group estimates an additional 18 staff for 24x7 staffing, at a cost of about $2.3 million annually. At the same time, the County will realize savings in excess of $3.4 million annually by not renting the equivalent beds from NORCOR and Polk County. The JSIP Program Manager and Benton County Chief Financial Officer are working on the operations plan for the proposed justice system facilities and supporting programs this winter ('21-'22), knowing the operational changes won't take effect for two additional biennium budget planning cycles over the next 5 years.

Q: I am under the impression that the correctional facility is supposed to be "more than a jail" by providing programs. Are these intertwined with the mental health facility?
A: The proposed behavioral health services in the correctional facility will not be directly intertwined with the Crisis Center. The services in the correctional facility will include both mental health and substance use disorder treatment, in addition to other treatment services, in an effort to reduce recidivism.

Services at the Crisis Center may be used as an alternative to jail for individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis who are needing support and services and will not be adequately supported in the correctional facility setting. Additionally, the Crisis Center can be a supportive transition for adults in custody who are being released and integrated back into the community who may have behavioral health needs. The Crisis Center can support referrals for housing and assistance with accessing insurance benefits, applying for services, and connecting to ongoing care. - Answered by Deputy Director for Behavioral Health, Dannielle Brown

Benton County

BUILDING A JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT APPENDIX
NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Accountability and treatment to transform lives, ensure safety and strengthen community

Benton County
OREGON

Nick Kurth, Manager
Justice System Improvement Program
Benton County
4077 SW Research Way | Corvallis, OR 97333
Tel: 541-766-6076

Benton County

BUILDING A JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE

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Speaking Engagement and Small Group Meeting Summaries	3
Questionnaire #1 Results	13
Questionnaire #2 Results	31
Questions and Answers	50

Appendix A: Speaking Engagement & Small Group Meeting Summaries

Public outreach on the Justice System Improvement Program began with Small Group Conversations and Speaking Engagements with key stakeholders. Following a short powerpoint presentation introducing the needs and goals of the program, participants were asked to rate the importance of each facility, weigh in on where the new Courthouse should be located (downtown or suburban location), and share their preference for the future use of the Historic Courthouse. Appendix A includes summaries of these conversations and Appendix B provides the results of the post-meeting online questionnaire sent to participants.

The County conducted 26+ small group conversations and speaking engagements between July and October 2021. Meeting summaries of the major engagements are listed in the following pages. For most meetings, the presenter was program manager Nick Kurth and the facilitator was Public Information Officer Alyssa Rash. Staff attending the larger presentations included Danielle Brown, Sheriff Jeff Van Arsdall, Captain John Devaney, and Joe Kerby.

Municipalities and Oregon State University
Participants: 12 (Two meetings: 7/26/21 and 8/4/21, and Corvallis City Council on 9/21/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Multiple participants favor the Crisis Center and Correctional Facility, including OSU representatives and Corvallis City Councilors
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Participants expressed concerns with parking, transportation impacts, and how the project will impact the development of future housing
    - One participant favors downtown location
    - Several comments encourage use of transit regardless of what site is chosen
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - One participant would like to maintain the Courthouse as is
    - One participant thinks the Historic Courthouse should be upgraded and repurposed for the public
    - Two attendees do not wish to keep the Historic Courthouse in the justice system
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Wants more precise locations
    - Multiple questions and concerns regarding tax impacts of bond

Key quotes/comments:

- Even if we have a few dozen more beds, it'd get a lot of the habitual offenders out of circulation.
- I would encourage any of the sites, especially the west and south sites to prioritize transit. It's unfortunate for parking to drive development.
- To the extent that we could continue with industrial use in South, we might be able to preserve space on the west side for future housing.
- As I look at overall costs, it will be less costly to build everything all in one location in less phases.

Behavioral Health and Social Service Providers
Participants: 26 (Three meetings: Health and Social Service Providers on 8/12/21 and 8/19/21 and MHADDAC on 9/7/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - One participant was curious about parking accessibility
    - Two participants ordered the importance of each facility as: Crisis Center, Correctional Facility, Courthouse and then Sheriff/Emergency Management
    - Multiple participants agreed that youths/teens should have access to Crisis Center
    - Concerns about the capacity of Correctional Facility
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - One participant is not in favor of co-locating the Courthouse and Crisis Center
    - Participants asked questions about transportation and future development
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - Two participants mentioned upgrading the Historic Courthouse
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Multiple participants would like clarification on the site selection process

Key Quotes/comments

- Best connection between programs and facilities I have seen. That is the hook for me and many others. Good job.
- I believe a "Benton-Best" model can benefit people with Developmental Disabilities in other counties. That is something we can specialize.
- The EOC is essential. As we look at the climate crisis and pandemic, there's more and more likelihood that we need EOCs that are very viable for the community.
- Transportation is a big issue. A lot of my clients would have a long bus ride if it's in the south or west site.
- What HOPE hears is that people living in the South feel that people are being dumped in their area.

Living Southtown
Participants: 4 (7/29/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - **Corrections Facility:**
        - High need due to the number of people released from existing jail
        - When deciding on the size of the jail, the analysts based the beds on communities of similar size. But the U.S. has the highest number of incarcerated citizens, so I'm not convinced that we aren't over-incarcerating people.
    - Crisis Center services are in demand and not currently available to residents
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Preference for Concepts 1 and 3
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**

- Multiple participants favored option 2; upgrade for public access

4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Discussion about transportation facilities, transit
    - Benefits of downtown facilities
    - Multiple concerns about flooding on the South site, impacts on emergency services

Key quotes/comments

- Good Sam has cut their mental health facilities drastically. If someone is in crisis, there's nowhere for them to go right now.
- The Courthouse is a showpiece for our county and we've got to protect it. It would be nice if we had public access to it.
- Southtown residents feel like we constantly get the short end of the stick. I'm also not sure that putting a facility with a lot of parking is going to spur development of amenities... I'd like to see as many facilities as possible downtown, because I think that's best for everyone.
- When you bring these facilities out towards the West edge, you're bringing these services closer to the rest of Benton County.

Corvallis Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Corvallis Association
Participants: 21 (Two meetings: 8/18/21 and 9/3/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Two participants agreed that the Crisis Center is most important
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Participants agreed it should be located downtown
    - Building a new Courthouse was favored
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - No specific responses noted.
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - A few individuals wondered whether the Board of Commissioners' Office building could be replaced with new facilities
    - One individual suggested that one site provides the opportunity to centralize security and safety
    - What happens if the bond doesn't pass?

Key quotes/comments

- Everyone recognizes the need, but we go back to location. Where is it going to go?
- Is there a detox facility included in this overall plan?
- Seeing the options for justice system facility buildings helped me realize it's not just concrete and barbed wire.
- The operational efficiencies of a system-focused, campus plan are definitely important in the overall cost impact.
- It's important to have a viable, healthy downtown.
- I recommend centralizing security for as many people as possible. One site makes sense; same staff for several uses would be efficient.

Visit Corvallis

Participants: 12 (9/23/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Attendees see the need for both more treatment options and accountability (jail beds)
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - No verbal comments
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - Interest in repurposing the historic courthouse outside of the justice system
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Why did past measures fail, how is this measure different?

West Hills Neighborhood Association
Participants: 30 (7/26/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Curious about how the DA office space will be utilized
    - Crisis Center and Correctional Facility
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Multiple individuals stated the Courthouse should remain downtown
    - Concerns about children's safety in relation to the Courthouse location in West Corvallis
    - Transportation and infrastructure concerns
    - Concern about property tax increase
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - The Historic Courthouse is a part of Corvallis' culture and ambiance; should be preserved
    - Take ADA accessibility into consideration
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - A few individuals are worried about incarcerated people being released into their neighborhoods

Key quotes/comments

- 110% the Courthouse needs to be downtown. It's our civic life and supports other jobs down there. Concern about protests occurring downtown, out of site.
- There is a thread on NextDoor going on about property taxes. There's a lot of people agitated about how much their property tax would go up.
- It's a beautiful structure, I think though that it has better purposes. There are a lot of people in the area and around the country who would be interested in making this a feature and not a function.
- As the mom of someone who is disabled, it's obviously a real issue. At the very least it needs to be ADA accessible.

- West Corvallis is lacking the basic amenities that other areas in the city have in place. If you can, please take West Corvallis residents to take those amenities into account. Specifically multi-use paths and infrastructure upgrades to enhance safety in the area.

Linn-Benton League of Women Voters
Total Participants: 24 (9/20/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - One participant ranked each facility in the following order: Crisis Center, Courthouse Sheriff/Emergency Operations Center, Jail
    - One participant believes each facility is equally important
    - The Emergency Operations Center needs a lot of space due to covid, but that is a 100-year event. How do you plan for a reasonable amount of space under normal circumstances?
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Multiple participants favor the downtown location
    - Multiple participants are concerned about transportation
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
    - No comments regarding the Historic Courthouse
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - Will the County need to increase their health and safety measure to fund staffing?
    - One participant is curious about how much it will cost to have an individual in jail
    - One participant mentioned they would like to see an investment in reducing houselessness to help reduce the needs for these facilities and services.
    - A participant is curious about how the County is investing funding in preventative measure

Key quotes/comments:
- I am concerned that the Crisis Center is receiving such a low proportion of the estimated cost.
- How is this related to people with disabilities and their safety in the community?

HOPE (Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity) Advisory Board
Total Participants: approximately 15 (9/22/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - Lots of interest in prevention of justice system involvement and support for abating the revolving door through in-custody treatment
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
    - Preference for Courthouse to be downtown
    - Concerns about accessibility to both suburban locations
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?**
4. **Other comments/questions**

- Concerns about operational funding – how will the County pay for running a 120-bed facility?

NAACP Executive Committee and Political Action Committee
Participants: 14 (9/21/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
   - Multiple comments in support of the Crisis Center as a priority. Question: why is the cost so much less than the other facilities?
   - Will you be tracking the incarceration of people by race or ethnicity? Recommend reading the book "The New Jim Crow" which focuses on the over-incarceration of BIPOC individuals.
   - A large portion of the funds will go towards the new Correctional Facility. How did you arrive at the 120 bed facility?
   - What does local crime look like? Are we talking about housing violent crimes or property/poverty-related crimes?
   - When police respond to people having a mental health crisis… in some communities there are a separate number to call. Has there been any discussion on that?
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?**
   - Can you speak to the benefits or drawbacks of having the Crisis Center co-located near the Courthouse?
   - Economic impacts and benefits:
     - Have you considered economic benefit to locating on the South site? I am in favor of this.
     - If this is passed and funded, I'm strongly in favor of Concept 3a or 3b. With the transit center and other economic drivers, this would bring more economic growth.
   - Multiple comments regarding the value of accessible public transport.
     - The courthouse should be easily accessible by bus and bike. I know that would be the case for the downtown location, is it also the case for either other location?
   - Are there any pros or cons for the west or south site for the Emergency Operations Center or Sheriff's Office in terms of response times?
   - If the city is looking long term, It seem precarious to pay more money for a slot of land that has flooded in the past (and perhaps with climate change will flood more in the future).
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?** (Not asked due to time)
4. **Other Comments/Questions**
   - How closely does BCSO and CPD work with Joe Hahn? Could you give an example of how that relationship looks?
   - Does CPD and BCSO track the number of people incarcerated by race or ethnicity? If so, do they look at trends or just snapshots?
   - If this bond is passed, regardless of where is may be, it is critically important to the NAACP that funds are directly set aside for education and treatment, specifically to support the re-entry of incarcerated adults back into society.

Key Quotes/comments:

- The new Jim Crow is a book that everyone who works in Justice should read. Instead of Jim Crow laws, what we have is over incarceration of BIPOC individuals. Will you be tracking the incarceration of people by race or ethnicity?
- If this bond is passed, regardless of where is may be, it is critically important to the NAACP that funds are directly set aside for education and treatment, specifically to support the re-entry of incarcerated adults back into society.

Grand Oaks Homeowners
Participants: 80+ (9/29/21)

1. **How important do you think each new facility is to the community? General observations, what else do you need to know?**
    - A participant is concerned about the amount of resources being put towards the Crisis Center
    - One participant is concerned about transportation
    - One participant stated that the current jail population is related to homelessness. They are curious as to why the Crisis Center, rehab and homeless shelter funding is going towards a new jail
    - A participant suggested repurposing existing buildings that are located downtown or in Sunset Park
    - One participant is curious about the cost per inmate if facilities are rented vs. the cost per inmate housed in the brand new jail
    - One participant is curious about the number of beds that the proposed jail will have
2. **Where should the new Courthouse be located?** (Answer in chat)
3. **The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. What do you favor?** (Answers in chat)
4. **Other comments/questions**
    - We have a series of questions about community safety:
        - Will adults in custody be released in front of the jail into an area with no resources and very limited transportation?
        - What will the effect of releasing adults in custody be doing to the bald hill natural area, the fairgrounds, and tailgating/shuttle for beaver football games?
        - What is the neighborhood lockdown plans when you have an armed escapee? Sirens, texts, phone calls?
        - Are you going to provide transportation to the Crisis Center from the jail for people whose primary “crimes” are being unhoused or having drug issues? Or are you going to release them ten miles away in an area a mile from even the nearest bus stop?
    - How does the proposed location for the jail serve the justice--involved individuals who will stay and be released there? How does it serve attorneys, court staff, and the transport deputies who will work in the jail?
    - Why are the site locations near residential neighborhoods? Why not out by the airport? Why not keep it downtown by renovating space? Why not some other industrial area?
    - Corvallis is a small city. Is it necessary to have all those functions within the city?

- Will having the courthouse miles from the jail with limited public transport help with the failure to appear issue?
- There are no arterial roads from downtown to the proposed west campus on 53rd. Wouldn't it be better for response times and transport needs to locate it on hwy 99?
- Can you provide us with an accurate study about the reduction of property values when a new center is built (not when existing centers are improved in existing locations)?
- Could you address how much light will be coming from the facility at night, possible increase in sirens, ambulances, jail vehicles and other noise impacts?
- How long would the average sentence for people being incarcerated in this jail be?
- What percentage of our currently incarcerated people are in for violent crimes?
- What distance is required from an elementary school? Is it less than a marijuana store?
- How will you address the issues we already have with people walking on the rail tracks and getting injured? It seems like that will be a common path from this facility.
- Are we planning to offer transportation help and coordination to help people with “failure to appear” charges as part of this overhaul?
- Were any sites in North Corvallis considered?
- So where exactly will the buildings be?
- Are crime rates equal in Linn and Benton?
- Is a higher incarceration rate better?
- How much does the new facility cost? plus the budget for additional staffing?
- You mentioned visitations... How long is an average stay in jail?
- What percentage of people we’re incarcerating are in for “criminal trespass” and drug issues that will eventually be served by the Crisis Center and not put into the justice system at all?
- It seems that downtown, with public transportation, courthouse / law office access, and other service locations (homeless shelter, CHANCE Recovery, churches serving food, etc) would be more ideal for the individuals who will be visiting, staying in, and working at the new jail.
- Will inmates be released directly from this facility?
- Follow up Q from someone else: The Mary's Annexation's traffic report showed the infrastructure is already unsustainable if the development goes through there. How would this add to the traffic, and what mitigation plans are in the works, particularly given that these two projects would have completion dates around the same time?
- If recidivism is indeed a problem, then it would seem that offenders are (indeed) released into the community. Thus, what would make you think that releasing inmates into/adjacent to Grand Oaks is a good idea?
- Currently the response to criminal trespass (which ranges from a middle-aged woman who was arrested for refusing to leave the hospital in the rain after treatment to a 64-year-old man arrested for sleeping in a bus shelter and more) is to pick them up, cite them and release them at the jail. Is that going to continue to happen?
- Do you really plan to hold everyone you arrest for criminal trespass?

- Given that the bond measure has already failed three times, do you feel you are jeopardizing funding for what is likely to be a very popular Crisis Center by packaging it with a very unpopular jail measure?
- Why is funding for the jail, which has been notoriously unsuccessful, tied to funding for a Crisis Center and homeless shelter we desperately need and want?
- How many of these facilities [shown on screen], such as Washington and Colorado, are next to neighborhoods with families having children?
- What is the projected drop in criminal charges once the Crisis Center is in place to keep people out of jail?
- If Napa County can rebuild their historic courthouse after a destructive earthquake with no cost to residents, why can't Benton?
- What is the plan to compensate for the property value reduction?
- Why does the Crisis Center ask only $5M, which is 1/10th of the $50m ask for the jail? What does this say about county priorities?
- Re: projected costs. We are just coming out of one of the steepest spikes of construction costs associated with the pandemic and prices are starting to calm down. I hope they will continue to do so. Was this estimate obtained during this time 2020-2021? Is it possible we will come down a bit closer to the $25M for the correctional facility for example?
- Can you provide us with the study or data summary that recommends a 120-bed correctional facility for Benton County?
- How will you pay for the shuttle service?
- Why do you propose to place these facilities so near GO, Bald Hill, and the Fairgrounds? Are there not properties where there is a lower residential population and fewer high-use recreational areas?
- Are you going to expand the roads around this to prevent traffic pile up? Just running a bus up 52nd is going to back traffic up. Only one lane.
- What problems do nearby neighborhoods in other communities experience when a new facility like this is built? I'm concerned about increased crime in my neighborhood (grand oaks). What do you have planned to address these issues?
- What have you done to address the Downtown Business Owners associations objections to the most reasonable location for these facilities (downtown)?
- What is the plan for when the Bond Measure fails?
- Is this being driven by an effort to pacify the downtown property owners or refusal on their part to sell empty properties downtown? What about the mostly empty commercial building across the street from the courthouse?
- Do you think the university will support this proposal when inmates will be walking or taking the bus through campus to reach downtown?
- You mentioned issues of zoning compatibility. So, you propose to put a jail next to a neighborhood full of young families with children. How does that not represent "zoning compatibility?"
- Why couldn't current jail space be renovated, with donated properties downtown used for other centers?
- Can the old courthouse be deconstructed and reconstructed somewhere else in the county (as a museum, maybe?), so that the land could be used to build a new Sheriff's office +jail + emergency center + Election's office + DA's office? It

would also be close to the new Crisis Center. With the old courthouse gone, there is no height restriction downtown.

- Can the city not do ANYTHING about literal empty buildings being withheld when we need the space for services?
- I also agree with Jane: why do you propose to place these facilities so near GO, Bald Hill, and the Fairgrounds? Are there not properties where there is a lower residential population and fewer high-use recreational areas?
- Did the Data include proximity to quiet peaceful neighborhoods and the impact to their residents and property values?
- How much will it cost to transport them where they need to go?
- Will inmates' families be able to visit them easily when the jail is located on a remote bus line?

Appendix B: Online Questionnaire #1 Results

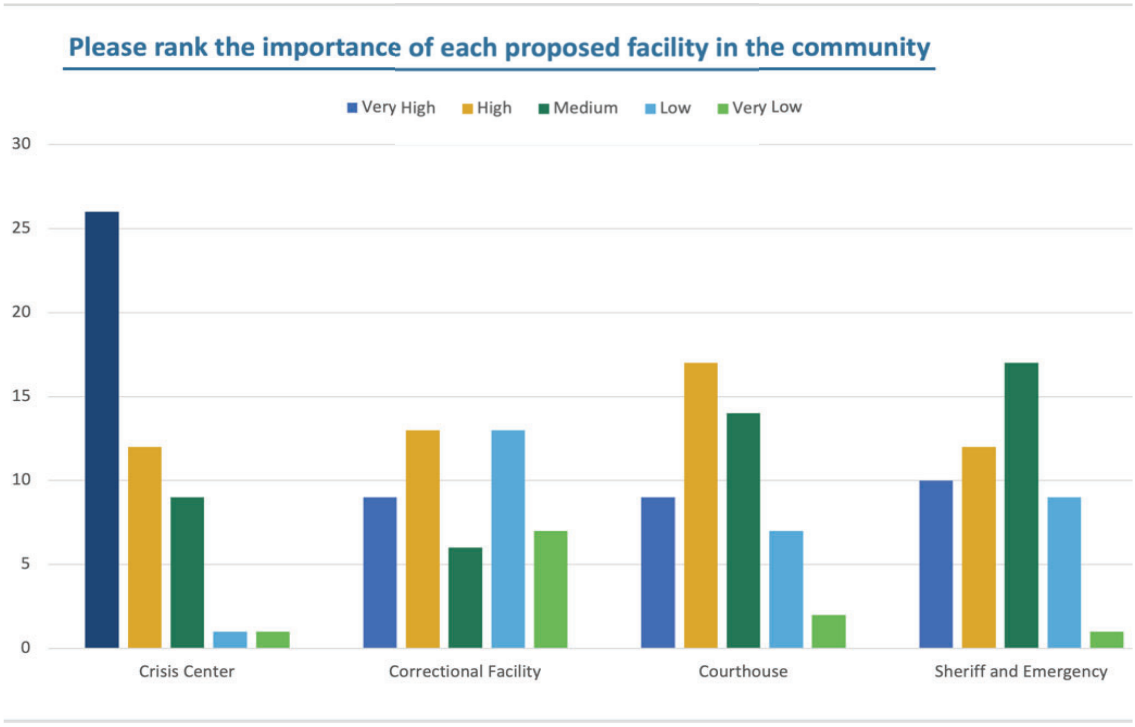
Public outreach on the Justice System Improvement Program began with small group conversations and speaking engagements with key stakeholders, and then moved toward a conversation with the broader public. On September 8 the County held a Virtual Community Meeting attended by 79 people.

Participants in all these meetings were asked to rate the importance of each facility, weigh in on where the new Courthouse should be located (downtown or suburban location), and share their preference for the future use of the Historic Courthouse. Appendix B provides the results of the post-meeting online questionnaire sent to participants:

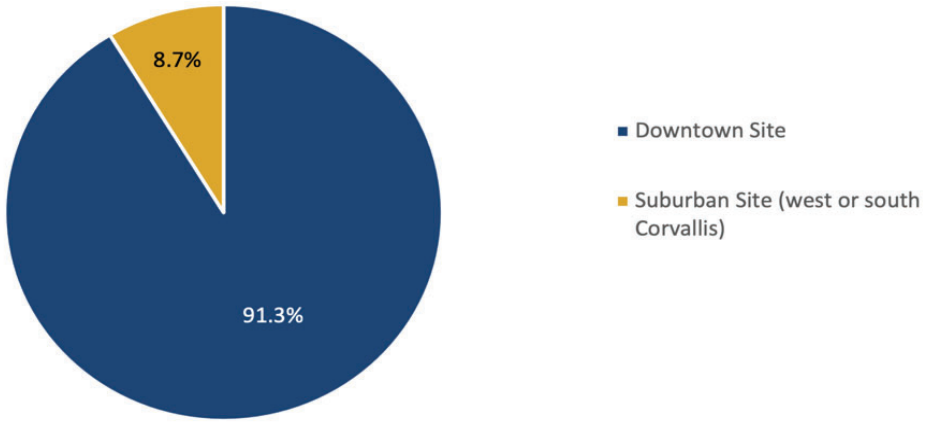
Small Group Conversations & Speaking Engagements……Page 13
September 8 Virtual Community Meeting……..Page 24

Small Group and Speaking Engagement Questionnaire #1 Results

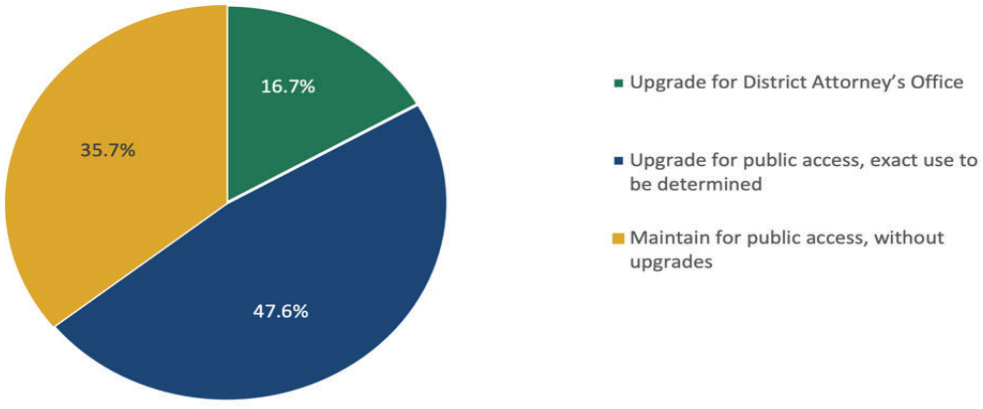
The County provided follow-up online questionnaires for participants of speaking engagements. Respondents primarily included participants from the League of Women Voters, the H.O.P.E. Advisory board, Grand Oaks Homeowners, and the NAACP Corvallis/Albany Branch. The following graphs represent the results from all the questionnaires, and the subsequent comments in the table on page 12 are grouped by speaking engagement.



One of the proposed new facilities is a new Courthouse. Where should the new Courthouse be located?



The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. Which option do you prefer?



Do you have additional comments or concerns about the proposed facilities?
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
Please keep these facilities downtown.
Location near established neighborhood results in property value declines, increases in safety and crime, noise, light pollution, etc.
All these facilities should be located downtown.
Like all my neighbors, I am HORRIFIED at the proposal to put a JAIL right next to all our houses. They pay NO attention to the plunge in property values we will suffer, not to mention the danger.
The west side site directly adjacent to a neighborhood is NOT the answer. Commissioners are not winning friends in the Grand Oaks neighborhood tonight. The bond measure has been turned down repeatedly in my 25 years in Corvallis. This is not a good start.
If the courthouse stays downtown, does the correctional facility still need to be within Corvallis urban growth boundary?
Please do not locate this near any residential community, specifically adjacent to Grand Oaks
Don't site a jail adjacent to a residential (zone) area.
Putting these facilities next to a high-density residential area is unthinkable. Construction noise and traffic will reduce quality of life. Property values will decline. Children and university students use the bike path nearby. You are already planning on putting in a huge subdivision between 53rd and SW West Hills. The environmental impact of these changes, plus the loss of habitat at The Retreat will be devastating.
Facilities for detaining and eventually releasing convicted individuals should not be located adjacent to an existing residential neighborhood.
Poor presentation. No ability to offer input, questions were not answered just placated. What an embarrassment to our community. The concept of putting this obscene complex and dirty work in a neighborhood demonstrates your complete lack of community planning and understanding of where to place structures and government buildings. So much poor work and leadership from the county staff to our sheriff to the country supervisor. Poor showing of how to build a community and treat the tax paying public that you are supposed to serve. You've been sold a sack of crap by interest groups, realtors, a design firm.... Horrible and unforgivable. Expect strong push back on the bond.
The south site is the best option. Access to Hwy 99, access to services, and space to add additional features.
No. These facilities are the correct priorities.
The west site location is completely unacceptable due to its proximity to residential areas, the fairgrounds, and bald hill natural area. It almost no transportation other than a bus line, and the roads around it are already at capacity. It is not a suitable location and should no longer be considered.
This might seem like a silly concern/question, but what's the area like around the current jail? Do people who are released hang out around the building? Is crime higher in that area than in the surrounding area?

Locating the jail right up against a family residential area, Grand Oaks, is a terrible idea, no matter how "efficient" it seems to planners. Traffic is already congested, plus impact on neighborhood safety.
While I believe that the facilities are very important, and I vote for a new jail when last on the ballot, the placement of them near a large, family-oriented development/apartments/condos, other residences and trailer park, Bald Hill, and Fairgrounds (both high-usage, family-oriented resources) is highly objectionable and untenable. It would bring greater traffic and noise to the area, distract from the beauty and peace of Bald Hill, be a burden on public transportation (and another increase of cost to taxpayers to cover this), and bring increased crime to the area. No matter what we were told last night, as a CASA I know some of the jail inmates and their families and their propensity for burglary, car theft and violence. It's naive to think that when families visit their relatives/inmates or when inmates are released, they'll ignore the houses nearby and just leave the area. Inviting them into our neighborhood places us at risk. The facilities should either be located downtown (much more convenient for attorneys and the public to attend hearings, etc. at courthouse, to visit clients/family in jail, for access to services by clients of the crisis center), or in a more remote location with few residences and other high-use resources for the general population.
I am not in favor of the West Site location
I understand that our community needs to rebuild its justice system, and that there aren't a lot of option considering the downtown businesses resistance to the obvious choice of putting the justice center together in the downtown area. But neither of the other locations are suitable, and I'm disturbed by the readiness of our work group to push ahead on clearly unsatisfactory choices without considering additional infrastructure that they'll need or even acknowledging how problematic they are. I'm also genuinely concerned that spending all this money isn't going to change the behavior of the police and Sheriff's departments regarding our homeless population and that this will simply shift a lot of vulnerable people away from resources into residential and green space areas that have no capacity to help them or provide for them.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
We need to reduce county recidivism and focus on mental health and behavioral health, not pouring funds into a bigger jail. We need more social services.
Courthouse should maintain a central location.
I think the Crisis Center should be sited near the hospital. People brought to the crisis center are most likely going to need medical assistance to help stabilize.
Utilize downtown space for Crisis Services and Courthouse services. Jail and sheriff offices can be centered elsewhere.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Keep courthouse downtown but move CF to suburban location
How will the staff of the crisis center be funded? Does the proposal include a fund for upkeep/maintenance/future improvements?
I know you're looking for a ranking, but I think all 4 are equally important to address at the same time.

NAACP
It is my hope to see real concerns addressed about the homeless population and their unique needs to avoid the Criminal Justice System. More wrap-around support services need to be included in this plan.
Crisis center most important. Trust the skilled mental health workers there can support Jail entry or arrests by Police/Sheriff officers wherever needed.
OTHER GROUPS
The jail is too big. The US has the highest incarceration rate in the world, so comparing to other counties based on population is bogus. It is also immoral that most of our incarcerated people have never been convicted of a crime and must wait months for trial just because they can't post bail.
I appreciated this presentation, but I believe more efforts need to be made to inform the public about the 3 sites being considered for a correctional facility - article on the front page of GT? Several articles in GT? Widely dispersed but also targeted invitations to those Corvallis residents who would be most affected by the siting of a correctional facility. Notices mailed or delivered to residents of all nearby neighborhoods? All the above? In short, more people need to know about this. If a decision is being made by the end of October, I think the site chosen will come as a big surprise to many folks - unless much more is done to notify the public. I would not have known about the possible sites except for a very recent e-mail (Sept. 10) l that landed in my inbox, one I easily could have overlooked.
Though I believe in the need for these facilities, I will not vote for them if you force a jail into our family-friendly residential community, Grand Oaks.
I am a parent with two young children, and I cannot look over the possible safety issue. I might have to move somewhere else if those buildings move in the neighborhood.
Locating a correctional facility near one of the largest, and growing neighborhoods is crazy. The Bond Measure WILL fail.
A correctional facility within 5 miles of any neighborhood is unacceptable. This goes against your own statement of a safe justice system for ALL residents. A facility near any residence puts their safety at risk.
Shocked that you are considering a site directly adjacent to residential houses. Please reconsider.
I am against building the correctional facility near reservoir road as this is near a prime neighborhood (grand oaks), fair grounds, Bald Hill hiking path.
The west site is dumb. The roads can’t handle that, and it is too close to neighborhoods.
The south is an entry to the city, and if the jail is built there it would be the first thing welcoming guests to our city. Even if the jail looks modern and is blocked by another building like the Courthouse, it’s unattractive to have those as the first main thing visitors will see.

Do you have additional comments about the location for the new Courthouse?
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
Co-locate all corrections facilities downtown.

The Courthouse causes protests, and the city hasn't proven it responsible enough to keep drug camps out of public spaces - like the existing courthouse. These things are not appropriate at Bald Hill. Stop this blunder and put the jail at the airport. That is the place for your jail bed rent out scheme you are hatching. Yuk.
Downtown
Downtown has more amenities to support a well-functioning courthouse, which can provide maximum benefits to the citizens. The presence to courthouse will help downtown vitality in return.
Further outside UGB
Having the facilities together seems most beneficial.
I am a CASA. The location should emphasize both easy access for those who use it (attorneys, DHS, CASA, public) and must be ADA compliant with adequate parking. The repeated suggestion last night to relocate the current courthouse and build in its place is absurd. Moving it would be extremely expensive and risk serious damage, it is also the most iconic and historic building in Corvallis and must remain at the center of the city.
Please go back to the drawing board and find a suitable location. The south and west sites (particularly the west site) is almost guaranteed to fail at the ballot box. I really care about this community, keeping people safe, and helping people who need it. This plan will not be successful.
Please keep the Courthouse downtown.
The courthouse needs to be easily reachable from the jail OR we need to have serious transportation services available both to prisoners AND to people with no fixed address who end up sheltering near the jail after releasing due to lack of transportation. But mostly, we need to stop delaying renovations to make our courthouse safe and ADA compliant while we figure out the jail! Which means, ultimately, that the jail needs to stay downtown.
The courthouse should be co-located with the jail at the south site location, with access to Hwy 99, services, and space to grow.
The new courthouse, sheriff's office/emergency center, and correctional facility should be in the space currently occupied by the old courthouse. She's a grand ol' girl, but it's time to relocate her somewhere else and use that valuable real estate to build a multi-story county building to meet the needs of the county for the next 150 years.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
I love the old courthouse, but it's time to tear it down and build a multi-story building to house the Sheriff's office and emergency center, the county correctional facility, the elections office and the DA's office. It's silly to walk away from a prime piece of county-owned real estate because people are rue to remove the old courthouse. If the historical value is worth that much, deconstruct and reconstruct the building somewhere else in the county so it can be a museum.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Please consider the equity and the statement the county would be making by placing the justice system facility in south Corvallis, which is the poorest part of Corvallis and is already blighted with Hollingsworth and Vose.

I'm not sure. I'm inclined to favor downtown because of public transportation. Also, I should have asked but didn't think of it: Will the offices currently located on Research Way move to wherever the new courthouse is?
NAACP
Centrality and accessibility are critical plus keeping civic duties/activities highly and centrally visible is an excellent educational opportunity
It seems the West location would allow more balanced development in South Corvallis and lessen the traffic congestion on Hwy 99.
Leaning toward West Site given the concerns with flooding in S. Site (i.e. can't get into Corvallis during a flood, save by going through airport or Harrisburg). Development of Mary's annexation would add hundreds more houses w/1/2 mile of West site. And bike path through Campus and from N Corvallis goes directly down 53rd (also connects to South bike path running from Corvallis to Philomath).
OTHER GROUPS
I am sorry, but I am not able to answer the question above without further study. My instinct would be to say it should be downtown nearer to the crisis center and various services (transportation and otherwise) OR be farther out in the country, less proximate to large, populated neighborhoods.
We do not approve of a jail being built in any residential neighborhood. There are better locations. We are disappointed in your proposals, though downtown is fine.
I think it being in downtown will offer better accessibility to the community.
I do not believe a new Courthouse is needed. Update what is already there instead of starting over.
Access is limited in south Corvallis and hard to access. Also, there are wetlands, and it floods occasionally making access difficult at times of the year.
No need to relocate, the site is perfect.
We didn't answer because that's the least concerning of the siting discussion.
The south site is the best option. There is no room for supporting services at the west site.
It should not be split from the other buildings. If this investment is made, it would be more efficient to do all at the same site.

Do you have any suggestions or considerations for future use of the Historic Courthouse?
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
If the building is too old/out of code to serve its intended purpose, bulldoze the building and build on the site.
It is of great concerns of locating a jail next to next to an established residential neighborhood whose residents have chosen this neighborhood because it is family-friendly and safe for our children to play outside. This could easily lead to an increase in crime and a decrease in property values.

Museum, science activity to replace the loss of Gear Box to encourage children to learn STEM.
Tear it down and reuse the existing property.
Tear it down and remake it the courthouse that you want to build and work in. Keep all services onsite, protect the downtown economy. Put the jail at the airport. The jail does not belong next to Grand Oaks and Bald Hill it is an incompatible use. Consider putting some facilities on OSU-law enforcement academy- or in Philomath.
It is a nice symbol, but not practical to keep, upgrade, and maintain.
Move the Historic Courthouse to another piece of land so that a new courthouse/jail/sheriff's office can be constructed on the site.
It could be a combination of museum with meeting spaces. To be at all meaningful, it must be ADA compliant.
I'm on the CRB and Benton County has a dire lack of meeting space for city functions (like CRB) in the downtown area. Being in the new ODHS offices has cut our attendance (when we're in person) to nearly nothing especially regarding family and resource families (because transportation to that area is hard, thus my concerns about putting the jail over there). The city could use a renovated courthouse as a community center to provide space for classes, meetings of groups like CRB, traveling museum exhibits, even indoor play space for kids maybe.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
Deconstruct and reconstruct it somewhere else in Benton County. We need that space the old courthouse is on for the Sheriff's office/emergency center, correctional facility, DA's office, and elections office.
Maintaining public access is important
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
I have served on juries. The courthouse is quaint, at best
Something attractive to visitors and residents. It is a historic and beautiful building. Perhaps a center for K-12 students to receive civics education.
I don't think it makes sense to spend a lot of money for upgrading the historic courthouse for the DA's office, in addition to the fact that it seems better to keep those offices nearer "the action." Of the other two options, I'm not sure about preference but would like to see other ideas and proposals. I certainly don't want to see the historic courthouse torn down!
NAACP
Keep it historic and beautiful, perhaps a community meeting space?
I think it should be upgraded (option 1 or 2) but I don't know enough as to decide DA's office over something else.
Prefer a combination of the D A's office and public access for historic purposes
OTHER
I don't think getting rid of the current jail and creating a huge empty green space around the courthouse is a reasonable use of space. It isn't very workable as a park, and the current situation shows that with some well-placed shrubbery, other buildings/offices on the grounds won't ruin the pretty pictures of the courthouse from the front.

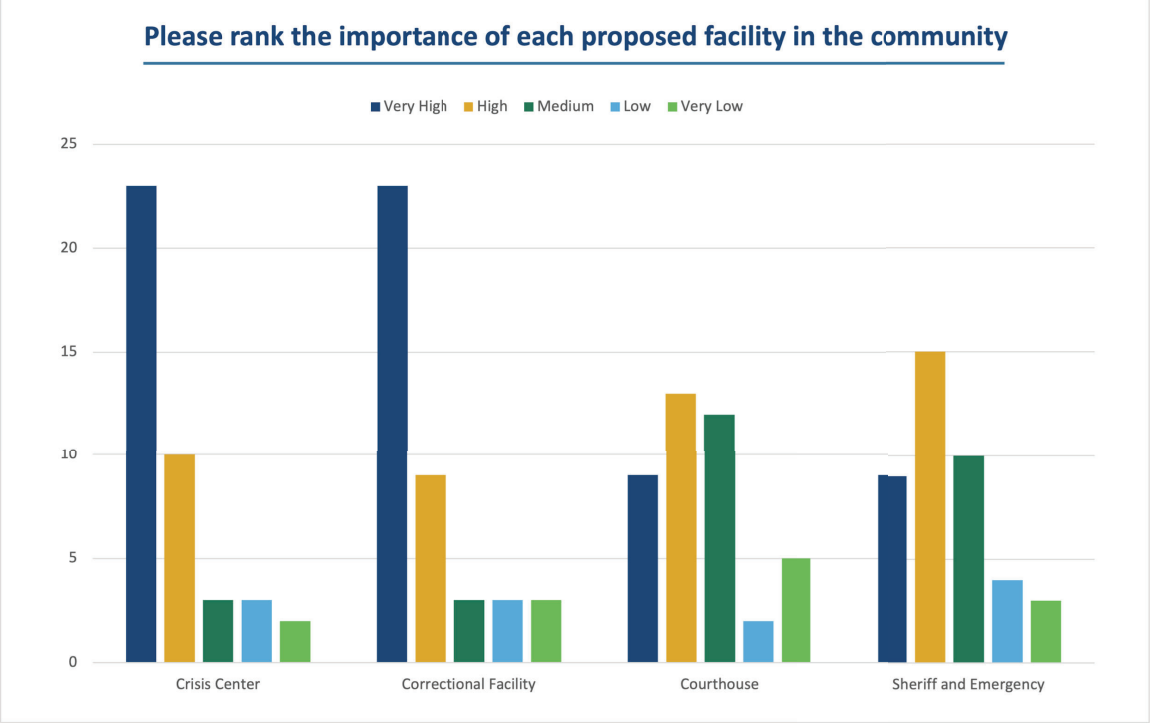
Move the historic building, if possible. Otherwise, level it and put the new justice center in that location.
Museum or educational place
I don’t like the county giving up on the building and insisting a brand new one is needed.
The Historic Courthouse plan should be separated from the proposal.
Use for updated library

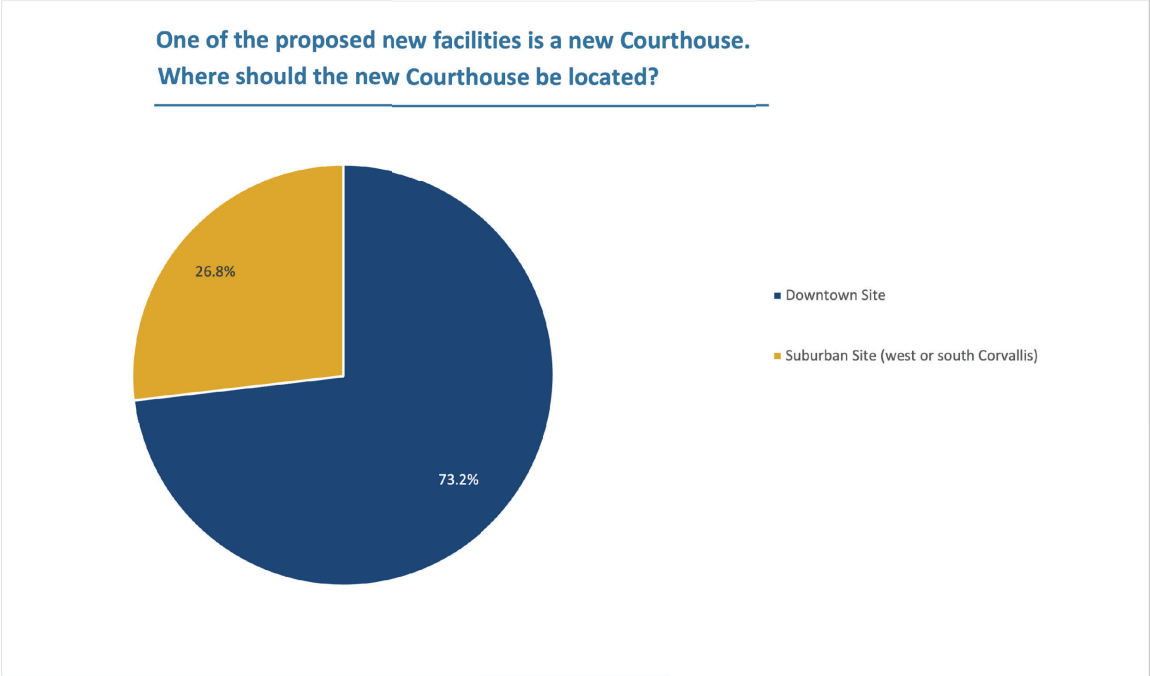
Please provide any additional comments or questions about the Justice System Improvement Program.
GRAND OAKS HOMEOWNERS
Appreciate the time and effort City and County employees have put into this, as well as the opportunity to share input on the plan. We need this community-engaged, data-driven process to work to find the best possible solution.
Please choose a location for all these facilities base on the data of how many immediate and future residents, public area such as bald hill, fair ground will be affected instead of just saving budget. All the facilities remain in downtown is a long-term solution and much less people are affected, our city has a better blueprint.
If commissioners et al insist on placing jail etc. near Grand Oaks, we will band together to defeat the bond issue. The tax increase alone is enough to cause me to vote against it.... again!
The west side site directly adjacent to a neighborhood is NOT the answer.
Please don't site the jail next to residential neighborhoods and release inmates into bedroom communities where children play, and people return to sleep after a hard day of work or school. Bald Hill and the fairground are at risk of ruin too from homeless troublemakers released from the jail.
This Zoom call was an absolute farce. You controlled the questions and who got to ask the questions, ignored the questions, or comments you wanted to ignore, and didn't allow for follow-up questions or any real discussion. There was no public discussion here - only your prepared questions and answers. This is not how functioning democracy works.
Place the facilities in a location where it won't impact existing residents!
Your process shows a total lack of community involvement and vision. You are only listening to representatives of interest groups. This is demonstrated in a that is way too budget and ill conceived. How many TVs does a prisoner need? Shame on you for proposing such a boondoggle. Reduce our taxes, you're asking me to pay $500/year+ for your luxurious courthouse and jail.
It seems like there have been very little community involvement options. This is the first meeting I have been invited to give input.
I appreciate the effort that went into this. I am concerned potential sites outside the Corvallis urban growth boundary were not considered. I think the current site is the most appropriate to build the Benton County justice system for the future. As a taxpayer, I would gladly pay a little more in property taxes to move the old courthouse and build a new courthouse on the same site.
I'm glad I attended this meeting. It's not easy to do after a workday, but it was informative, and I appreciated the time to ask questions and learn more.
The West site is not a good fit. The facilities should be near one another for optimal benefit.

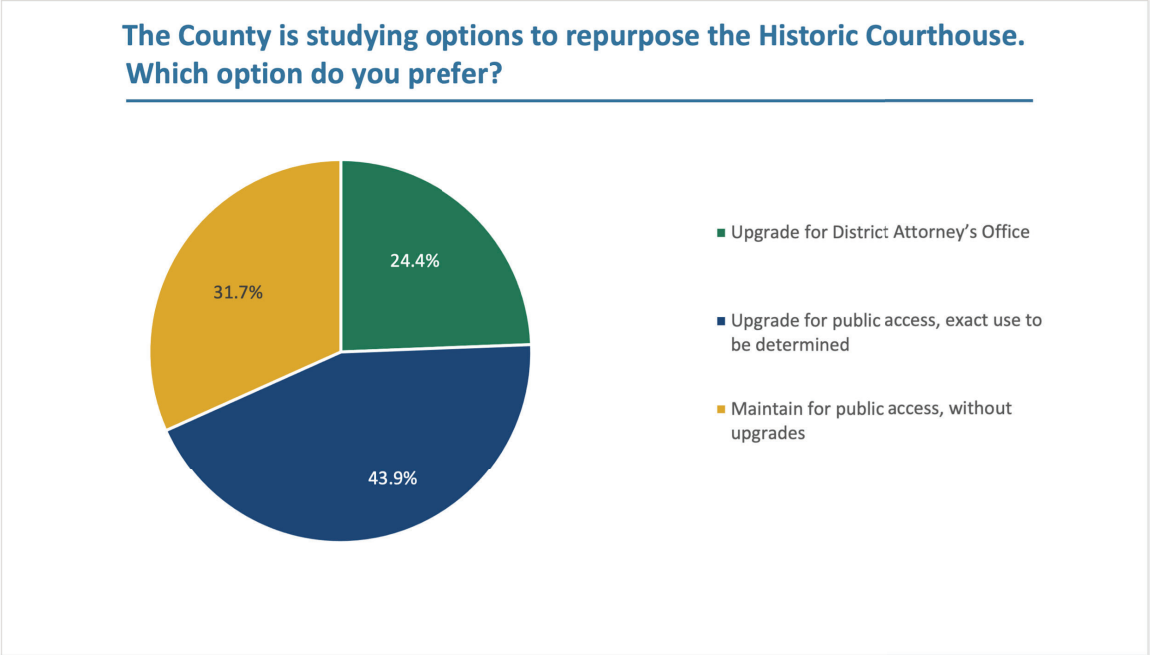
Has anyone considered establishing a drop off and pick up point at or near the Crisis Center, so that people being released from jail (or being released after being cited for Criminal Trespass, which will clearly continue to happen) are both greeted immediately by councilors and case workers AND in an easily accessible place for families to pick them up? Because if lack of transportation (or lack of quick and easy transportation) prevents people from showing up to meetings that determine how long their children stay in foster care you know it will prevent them from coming to pick up troubled family members from jail where as an easy bus trip to the crisis center, where they could also talk to councilors and discuss resources, might actually help get releases back into their community supports.
H.O.P.E. ADVISORY BOARD
Why are there no site options in the north part of town?
Prioritize rehabilitative/restorative services over incarceration, eliminate bail for all less than felony offences. End the practice of law enforcement being the point of entry into restorative services by increasing community-based treatment programs and use of home detention with adequate supervision for non-violent offenders.
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Consider moving towards a new model, check out what is being done in Norway. A Crisis Center is a step in the right direction, but not enough. Focus on preventative measures and resources to ensure that vulnerable community members are getting their needs met. I would want to invest in that.
I was impressed with the presentation by Nick Kurth on 9/20/21 at the LWV Zoom program and will be pleased to be part of an effort to educate Benton County residents about the pressing need for a new justice system. Thank you!
NAACP
Please provide better case management pre-trial
OTHER GROUPS
The rush to judgment to two off-site locations seems questionable. Keeping facilities downtown seems most logical. The site next to the water treatment plant is closest to other government offices and services. That property could be condemned, and the owners justly compensated, if need be.
The presentation did not address what kind of correctional facility this would be: a maximum-security prison or? i.e., what kind of offenses would the incarcerated have committed?
Locating a jail in a residential community such as Grand Oaks will likely increase crime rates and lower property values. We purchased our home here because it was a family-friendly neighborhood where our children could play safety outside. I would not have purchased a home here if a jail was next door, and I know most of my neighbors feel the same way. All it takes is one event to tank the neighborhood. I am frustrated and angry. I want to know why the communities weren't involved in site selection. Further, you shared a "comparison study" with a neighbor that is a joke. NYC is not comparable to Corvallis in any way. Further, the study looked at crime rates and property values after four EXISTING jails were renovated and one NYPD tow lot was converted to a jail. Not applicable at all and completely insulting.

A bond measure will fail. Citizens will come out in droves to vote against either of the suburban sites. The County would be well served to find land in a more rural area of the county, away from major development.
Separate out crisis center from bond. Homeowners have been hit hard with property tax increases in last few years (SHAME on assessor's office for increasing in 2020 when so many are unable to work). We voted for 911, which did not work. We voted for library and parks which got taken away from us. Worst of all we voted for school bond which for SW Corvallis residents has seen ZERO improvements and only gotten worse. NO MORE BONDS until we see and can reap the services that were previously promised.
Cannot believe you are considering a site directly adjacent to residential properties in West Hills. The site should be downtown for all.
This proposal comes down to siting. We would support a location not adjacent to an established neighborhood and I think a lot of people feel the same.
Listen to the comments, don't discount neighborhood comments.
The program is estimated to increase taxes by $200 annually, and the presenter claims a jail does not decrease home property values, which is usually does because homes are in a more undesirable location. Has the estimator factored in that with lower property values in those neighborhoods, lower overall taxes? If it's built near my home, I'll be challenging the tax assessment every year.

September 8 Virtual Community Event: Questionnaire #1 Results






The County is studying options to repurpose the Historic Courthouse. Which option do you prefer?
24.4%
31.7%
43.9%
Upgrade for District Attorney's Office
Upgrade for public access, exact use to be determined
Maintain for public access, without upgrades

Do you have additional comments or concerns about the proposed facilities?
Been attending meetings over 2 years Been attending meetings over 2 years on this, glad to see coming closer to fruition. Proximity of all services to each other to share common space/ reduce commuting/ shared services seem necessary. Loved the idea of all downtown for closeness to 'population'. And get it won't all fit downtown, sad. Do hope whether West or South we put all services together.
I am concerned that we are investing in incarceration. I would rather have conversations within the community on how to invest that money in effective alternatives to increased policing and incarceration.
I like the economy of scale and potential reduction in operating costs when we combine these into a campus-style setting.
I really want the project to focus on how the crisis center, restorative justice practices, etc. will help reduce the need for the other facilities. I also worry about language focusing on "keeping money in the county" when referencing our current situation of renting to other counties. This makes it feel like the people in custody are a financial burden and not who they are: people. I understand why this is being said, and don't want a defensive response from the county. I instead want the focus to be on equity, rather than the buzzword focused approach currently being used.
I think putting them all together in one bond is not going to work...it will be too much money
I think the correctional facility and Sheriff's office should be on the same site.
I vote for the south location the courthouse, correctional facility, and sheriff's operations. I would also plan for south town to follow grocery store/shopping center, green space, nice streetlights, murals, completed bike path along the river, I think the courthouse should be located at the same location as the correctional facility - for long-term efficiencies and effectiveness and a streetcar to downtown. Add value to south town - let this be a new beginning to south town.
Locate these facilities in a way that provides room for future expansion if necessary. The site plan should also prioritize adjacencies that optimize staffing; the capital costs of the project are paid once; the staffing and operations costs will continue for decades and will include PRES costs.
My concerns include the cost and taxes going up, as well as issues related to the facilities being located near my home. I am concerned about criminals making their way through my neighborhood on a regular basis. I live in south Corvallis and mentally unstable homeless people already make their way through my neighborhood frequently. I would like to see improvements to my neighborhood that help it feel more safe, not less safe. I've heard a community leader talk about "just sticking it in South Town." South Corvallis should not be seen as THE part of town to place facilities and services seen as undesirable. The burden of serving such needs should be shared by the whole community.

No mention of staffing. Tripling the size of the jail will surely require more people. 120 probably ok for today, but your successor will be standing in front of a crowd 30 years from now saying the jail is too small. Think about it. Current capacity+ prisoners now be sent away + catch and release crew now+ population growth.
Not currently.
Southtown is the worst possible location. The Mary's River floods and then nobody can get in or out. Crisis center, correctional facility. These need to be centrally located so they can be reached easily.
The high cost is a primary concern. Our taxes are already too high, and this will add to the tax burden we already bear.
They are all needed and should be in proximity.
We must start with a jail to hold people accountable.
Yes-you need to fund the crisis center facility to take care of houseless, mental health and drug addicted populations in our county.

Do you have additional comments about the location for the new Courthouse?
Away from downtown, parking access to but it bluntly, sucks at current location.
Courthouse is part of, and often the center of, a civic center, which should be downtown. Otherwise where would the protesters go, for example?
Downtown businesses have suffered too much over last 1.5 years and residents continue to stay away due to homeless safety issues. Don't take this away from us too. Keep the courthouse downtown!
Downtown close to jail.
Having part of the location downtown and some in a suburban site I think would work.
How much traffic will be generated by the outlying sites?
I think the courthouse should be located at the same location as the correctional facility - for long term efficiencies and effectiveness.
It needs to be very accessible and walkable for the general public, next to other Downtown amenities
It should be kept downtown.
Keep the old one.
Leave the courthouse where it is with no updates.
Not at this time.

Should be close to Incarcerated for ease of transfer, close to Police for ease of transfer.
The downtown location would position the courthouse as a community icon and gathering place.
The Suburban sites allow for colocation with the corrections facility, which will optimize staffing and minimize transport between corrections facility and the courts.
There are two many pros/cons for each to make a comfortable decision. I think more detail about the human impact (traffic, access, noise, safety, etc.) will help me be able to make a better decision.
West site has very significant traffic/transportation issues that will not be resolved for years; it is much too congested and will get more with the developments going on.
Why not a site in Northwest Corvallis? Seems like the rich never have to live with these types of projects in their backyards.
Why not the south half of the LE block? The low-income housing could be relocated. No reason it needs to be in proximity to justice system buildings. Could also build partially over police / sheriff motor pool/ parking lot.
Yes...to lower operational costs for security and prisoner transport it should be co-located with the new Correctional Facility.
Do you have any suggestions or considerations for future use of the Historic Courthouse?
Classrooms and meeting rooms for non-profit groups and maintain the courtroom for tours.
Current courthouse can continue to house the elections department, and ID and Marriage, etc. plus all those tourists, students to come and be amazed by architecture and history.
DA's office and close to jail and courthouse.
Have it be a restaurant/cafe with meeting rooms
I like the idea of seeking grant money for upgrades and more community input on use.
I like this idea which is why I favor keeping the CH downtown
I think all the possible suggestions are good ideas, perhaps there is a way to combine come of them.
I think our county's defensive "no we are keeping it no matter what!" approach is showing the county values historic buildings more than the impact that building has had on being inaccessible, used to harm people through a corrupt criminal justice system founded on white supremacy, and is currently a major danger for earthquakes. Consider what tearing down the building could mean for restarting and moving forward.
I would like the Historic Courthouse to eventually be upgraded, preferably with grant funds, if possible. I would like to see this building used in some way for the community. Perhaps it could house free/affordable daycare, recreational or arts classes of some kind, or provide other kinds of free/affordable resources to the community.
If no upgrades were done to the building, what public uses would be possible?
It doesn't make sense to pay for upgrades and then let someone else use it...
It must be reused for civic purposes, otherwise it will sit and deteriorate only costing a higher amount later. Don't kick the can down the road. If Napa County can restore their historic courthouse after an earthquake so can Benton.
Keep as the courthouse.

Lease to a business that provides venues for community meetings, private party events.
Maintain it as a public historic building
Not currently.
Only if new courthouse nearby.
Part of the facility could be kept as a historical courtroom; it could be used by local schools as an educational tool.
The historic Courthouse needs to be maintained but shouldn't be part of this levy. I would like to see this as a public/private partnership. Community meeting space and arts space are possibilities that are appealing. Would like it to be maintained for public usage; not something like offices.

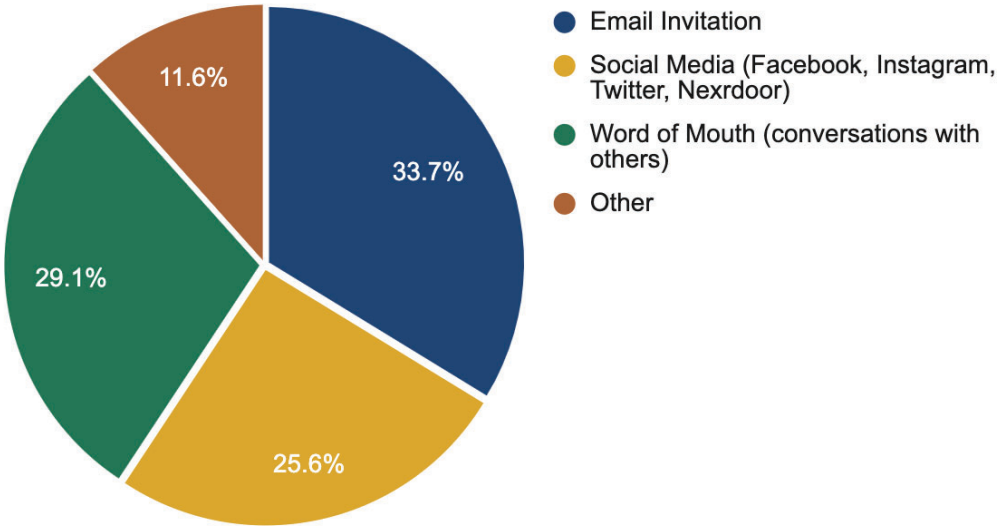
Please provide any additional comments or questions about the Justice System Improvement Program.
Are funds already dedicated to building each of the proposed facilities, hiring additional law enforcement officers, and any other proposed aspects of this program/project? In future multiple choice surveys and polls, please include the option for someone to choose a response that indicates that they don't like any of the presented options (e.g., where should a proposed facility be built?) and/or do not support a proposed aspect of the project (e.g., please rank the importance of each proposed facility -- options would range from "Very high" to "Very low" and would include an additional choice of "I do not support the building of this facility").
As a member of the original Justice System Program Corvallis really needs to modernize and upgrade their Justice System. There is also a need for a Crisis Center. Hopefully we may be able to get both.
Contact Rep DeFazio and see what funds are available in the two "build back better" legislations awaiting Senate approval
I favor a downtown campus within 1-2 blocks of current courthouse.
I feel the marketing of the taxpayer financial burden to fund this through property taxes is purposely misleading and discredits the integrity of this project. You have already been kindly asked to be more accurate by NOT using the county averages, but rather be upfront and honest of what this will cost for city homeowners. Failure to comply with this simple request for honest transparency will cast a dark shadow of mistrust and manipulation for anything stated.
I would like to hear what the County Commissioners are debating about the geographic equity of the location issue. Thanks to Xan for giving some background on that.
In this plan what level of seismic upgrade is suggested for the historic Courthouse?
Inmate release right next to suburban residential neighborhoods is unacceptable in my opinion. I'm concerned about public safety at Bald Hill Natural Area. Two-lane 53rd St with ditches on both sides and no shoulders is not conductive to have an emergency responding agency located next to it; motorists won't be able to safely pull over to let emergency vehicles pass.
Keep it all downtown and centralized.
Make it easily accessible and expandable because future growth is coming.
My preference is for the West Site, regardless of where the courthouse is to be located.
provide trauma informed approach to care to our county population.

Suggest not using bond funds for upgrading the old courthouse - use donations and grants. Very informative meeting - thank you.
Support should come from a local sales tax, not endlessly bleeding the homeowners.
Thank you for hosting this session and I am glad there will be more. I know I'm very critical, but my critiques come from a place of love for our community and desire to see people thrive and not punished by our criminal justice systems. If we truly care about criminal justice system improvements, we need to take a more critical eye at the whole system and see where else changes can be made.
The community really needs to understand WHY we need this -- stats on the percentage of felons released, percentage of people who no-show at court, percentage of people who get a ticket rather than taken to jail. Most people don't realize how broken our criminal justice system is due to the lack of facilities like a functional jail, sobering center, etc. Share some stories about someone who got a ticket, then went out and re-offended to truly illustrate the point.
This feels like decisions have been made and you are trying to sell it to the public. Less presentation, more conversation.
Trust N. Kurth et.al will meet with BIPOC community groups in particular the NAACP to get their opinions/feelings on 'jails'. And help them learn about the 'Crisis Center' and wrap around services included.
What are your plans for long-range funding so that our children aren't saddled with this same problem 50 years from now? We've known we've had a problem with our correctional facility for over 30 years...why haven't we been putting money away so that it could just be taken care of? I'm not sure I understand why we need to vote for a new Correctional Facility but didn't get an option to vote for the Sunset Bldg. or any of the countless remodels and updates of other County buildings. It seems to me that maintaining critical County infrastructure should be a part of my ongoing tax package, not a crisis that requires additional funding. If you are asking me for additional tax dollars, what is the County willing to cut back on to make the total cost less burdensome?
Yes. The presentation was good and informative, but clearly biased in favor of the project. I would like to thank the presenters for their time and effort. While I recognize that the existing facilities are inadequate, I am troubled by the prospect of a large property tax increase to pay for services that are needed to manage the homeless situation and will mostly be utilized by the homeless population of Corvallis. Let's be honest, even though nobody said as much in the presentation, the homeless have been and continue to drive the need for crisis management, law enforcement, addiction services and incarceration. The current "catch and release" is not working, but I'm not sure asking the taxpayers of this community to fork over at least $135M to manage the homeless problem is fair. I feel already overburdened by having "Safe Camp" shoved down my throat by the County Development people last year (I live across the street from this train-wreck). My taxes are plenty high now considering I can't really name any services I use or receive from the county for all the money I pay in taxes, nor anything Benton County government has done that had a positive impact on my life. I will be voting no.

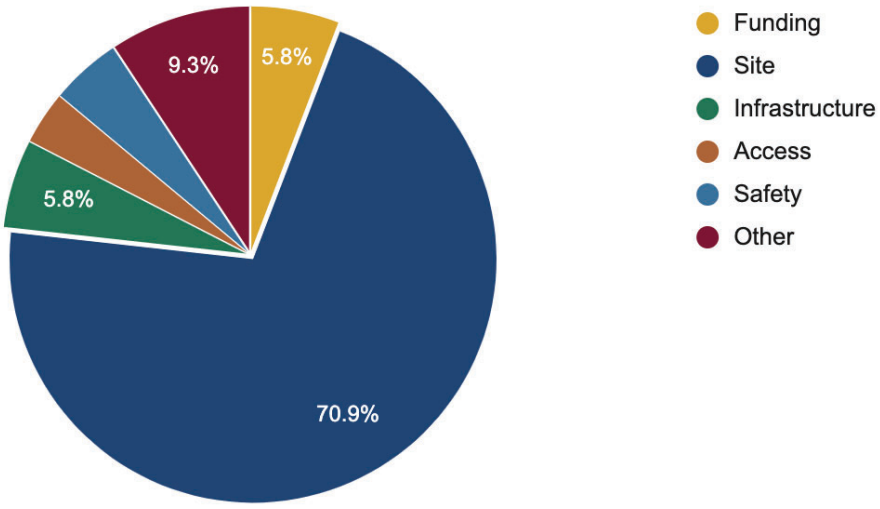
Appendix C: October 13 Virtual Community Meeting Questionnaire #2 Results

After the second large Virtual Community Event on October 13, the County emailed follow-up online questionnaires to the 285 people who registered for the meeting. 86 people completed the questionnaire. Please see the following pages for summary results. Comments included in this document are verbatim and have not been edited.

How did you hear about the October 13 virtual community meeting?



Throughout our first round of public engagement, we heard many themes, ideas and concerns around justice system improvements. What is most important?



Why did you make your selection for what is most important?
I live near the site on Reservoir Road and use Bald Hill Park 4-5 days a week.
This will be a long-term investment; we should not be picking sites in private and rushing the process.
Justice facilities need to remain downtown. There must be easy access for all who need to use these facilities and who need to also access other services in county. It is also essential that these facilities are not near residential areas or nature areas.
Proximity to neighborhoods, particularly their distance from law enforcement.
I am concerned that the jail beds that are filled at this time is largely because the County is prioritizing jailing over providing mental and social support services. The U.S. tends to have a much higher jail rate per population than other countries. Benton County can think out of the box. How can we invest in our personnel and support services in a way that does not require constructing a massive jail complex? Furthermore, a county jail should not be placed in a city. It should be placed outside of the city UGB. This would make property more affordable. There would be less resistance from potential neighbors. County deputies are often out driving around the county, thus the facility does not need to be in an urban area. Response times would not be increased significantly if the facility is 0.5 to 3 miles out of an Urban Growth Boundary of any community.
Corvallis as at a tipping point for growth - we need a real, carefully considered expansion plan that will let us make sure we have infrastructure that lets us grow without losing what makes us unique.
Site drives most of the other issues.
How dare you consider building a jail next to an established family-friendly neighborhood?!?
The site must protect residential areas and be efficient and effective. All costs must be considered. Resident questions pointed to a "rush to judgment" without considering all pertinent facts.
I am concerned about new development and the location of the development. Is the development necessary? What other sites were considered and how were they eliminated? What will be the impacts of the proposed new developments (environmental, light/noise pollution, impacts to residential communities, and more)? Why weren't any specifics about the location of the sites in question shared at the meeting and why can't I find them on your website? What is the footprint of the proposed developments, both buildings and parking lots/driveways? Some commissioners shared the potential benefit of the new development that could arise at these locations, like stores and restaurants, which to me, given where I think we're talking about (again, still can't figure out the specific locations) is not in my mind a potential benefit. Was there any consideration for re-building within the current footprint of facilities rather than add new, which feels like sprawl? Why, if there was such good public engagement already, did I only just hear about any of this a few days ago when I'm someone who pays attention and stays informed about what's happening in the community?
Site affects all those other issues and is likely to be the biggest determinant in whether the bond passes.
Because everyone wants to stick their undesirable stuff in my neighborhood
NIMBYs always push bad things into Southtown. We're too decent and jaded to NIMBY.
Site influences all of these, so this choice is not useful.

Locating the site directly adjacent to existing neighborhoods is a terrible option, why would the county consider that when there are more rural and remote options available?
The discussion of where to site the jail is irrelevant if there is not funding available. Bond measures have been repeatedly defeated.
A proposed site is close to where I live.
Site should be accessible, close to public transport and courthouse, not in an area that floods.
County does very little, long-range planning. With big things like the justice center having a long-range plan would be a good idea to be sure it is in an area that is best suited in years to come. Everything now a days Seems to be based on who is willing to sell and show much can they get. Both county and city of Corvallis are lacking in planning for the future. Not on whatever is best for the county. OSU is also guilty.
Carbon footprint, social justice
People who are involved in the justice system are more likely to have economic issues that result in their needing to use public transportation. Access is important!
Because as many folks said on mtg chat, SITE encompasses the others. And what you are proposing is SO DANGEROUS and SO UPSETTING to both the West site nearby residents and those in the South site, that we will ALL have to band together to defeat the bond issue, should the councilor's select either site, instead of where it should go, the McFadden site...or downtown.
My strong preference is for all the facilities to be located downtown. Long ago, the voters approved acquisition of the rest of the block bounded by 5th, 6th, Jackson, and Monroe in order to build the "new" jail and a permanent LEC. The current jail and LEC were to be used only until the new facilities were built on that block. Instead of seeking to locate the facilities downtown, as originally intended, previous bond measures sought approval of much larger facilities on remote locations. They have all been rejected by the voters. Downtown needs to retain as much local government structure as possible, and public transportation accessibility would not be an issue downtown.
The site location needs to make sense for the users of the services and the staff. And it is crucial to consider the environmental impact of building on each site.
Site, or to use another word, place has the most impact on not only humans, but all living beings, including water, wildlife, plants, and the very earth beneath that which is proposed.
The county goes for a levy after the city and school. I, for one, am tired of this sequence. If the County is serious, then go out first!
The sites were presented as west vs south duel. Both sites where places can't avoid residential area when leaving. It's unacceptable.
It will affect neighborhoods, community, jobs, and people's everyday lives moving forward.
It's the most important aspect to me
Jail is the wrong answer
During flooding, South Corvallis is often effectively cut off from the rest of the city. The part of South Corvallis identified for the South Site also lacks multi-modal access. I think both the West and Downtown locations fare better in this respect.

The people it serves need to have access to resources, not get cut off by seasonal flooding (which is predicted to worsen with increased rain volume in shorter time periods), and site includes safety.
Safety, potential depreciation of property value, increased traffic
We need to make sure we have the money first.
Siting of jail drives ALL other issues
I don't think these are mutually exclusive categories, but the sites that have been chosen to seem uniquely poorly suited for this type of facility, so that must be the default.
A Jail or Correctional Facility does NOT belong near, much less adjacent to, any suburban residential area.
The location is critical to the success of the new Justice Center bond passing.
Security for new facilities on same campus
I live near one of the sites being considered. I do not think the area's roads or water table are equipped to handle construction of a large facility. The McFadden site may be better able to handle this kind of pressure and is also further away from established neighborhoods.
I don't want a jail located near my neighborhood.
I wish there the ability to choose more than one. Site selection because none of the site selected offer what the community wants. I see a need for more space to serve substance abuse offenders and possible office space, but not more jail space. Let's look at the studies that prove jail without real rehabilitation doesn't work.
The costs for this project are excessive and many aspects of it are unnecessary or redundant. The city and county view homeowners as a bottomless well of money, this needs to stop.
There are regulations in place for most of the above except site.
Negative impact on nearby families.
Because I DON'T want a jail built in south town. It should be next to the LE building, right across the street (kitty-corner) from the current courthouse. It would reduce transport costs to court. The city/county already own that apartment building that houses parolees/probation folks and people in rehab. How about the Century Phone building north of the jail? It already looks like a brick shithouse like all the new campus buildings. It would fit right in. Re-do the inside of that huge brick building! Obvious choice to purchase the phone company building if you don't want to tear down the apartment-rehab housing.
I am not sure such a large jail is needed and there is the concern that more beds just means more beds filled. It seems investment in other ways to address homelessness and mental health issues would be a better use of funds instead of so much more money into law enforcement and incarceration. From an article in the Guardian https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/mar/07/us-cities-defund-police-transferring-money-community "The Austin police funds were reallocated to emergency medical services for Covid-19, community medics, mental health first responders, services for homeless people, substance abuse programs, food access, workforce development, abortion services, victim support, parks and more."
Both W and S sites have cons. The neighbors will fight, and bond will fail.
SAFETY issues. 24/7 noise. Light pollution. Traffic - no way to expand 53rd St. especially under railroad trestle which floods and becomes impassable. Mary's Annexation has not been factored into consideration.

because the other issues are part and parcel of the site. Of course, the other issues are important to consider in the site placement.
A properly vetted location is of utmost importance
The site must be affordable, readily accessible and there must be enough space to expand the size of the facilities in the future if necessary.
Crisis Center, services for Mental Health, helping/keeping folks out of the prison system when they aren't conforming to norms of folks with houses, good medical care. I do feel that the Crisis center should be near the jail for Police/Sheriff officers to choose services for some folks arrested.
There must be a support system in place for the inmates and for those who work there. Medical treatments, Legal help, parking for visitors, housing, gas stations, water supply, garbage pickups, foodstuffs, places for meetings. Of the three sites the South option has NONE of these. Unless the city plans on dumping a load of money into a huge building frenzy, access to these things will be a real traffic and time mess. There are environmental considerations, In the South Corvallis plan there WILL be flooding which will cut off the jail from access in and out of town.
Because I disagree that siting a jail among 3 recreational paths (Campus Way, Midge Cramer Path, 53rd St. Bike Path), Bald Hill Natural Area, a wetland, and a large housing complex is irresponsible and short-sighted.
I live in South Towne City always wants to put homeless camps in jails in our neighborhood and we can't even get a decent grocery store
If the site can be accessed via adequate transportation infrastructure, I will support the bond measure. If - for instance - the West site is chosen and there is no inclusion of DEFINITIVE plans for improvements to 53rd and to West Hills and to Hwy 20, I will actively work to defeat it.
The Commissioners say this facility is intended to serve for many decades...perhaps 50 years. So, site selection is very important for the future of our community. Mistakes now have serious, long-term consequences. The County had a ranking or rating system to evaluate sites. Clearly, by the County's own criteria, the McFadden site came out head and shoulders higher in the County ranking. Much superior in the ranking than, say, W. Corvallis. Why the Commissioners eliminated what their own data showed was the very best site is a mystery. Why did the Commissioners, at the last minute, in secrecy, eliminate the very best site for the citizens of the County and the City? Why did they, by their own data and analysis, eliminate the best site? At some point the Commissioners are going to have to answer questions and explain why they have eliminated the best (preferred) site and ignored their own data and the report their expensive consultants provided. There is no sense talking about funding, infrastructure, access, or safety when you have picked the wrong site. Site obviously comes first. Then we can all get focused on getting the other pieces in place.
In any case, cost shouldn't be the first and overriding criteria for advancing an investment in a facility intended to serve for 50 years or perhaps more (note that Commissioner Malone repeatedly indicated cost was his overriding criteria).
If the County is so concerned about funding, why did they just spend $400K+ on a "bonus" program for County employees? Who does that? No one! It is an archaic practice of for-profit businesses that underpay their employees and then give them a "bonus" if the business does well. Generally, not done by governmental agencies.

A far better use of the federal (windfall) funds would be to put it toward the JC or some other worthy project like housing for homeless. If the County has an issue with employee compensation, they need to do a classification and compensation study of comparable agencies. There are professional ways of addressing things and an unprofessional. The County selected the latter.
Impacts to neighborhoods and the surrounding environment. Especially concerned about light pollution
It is dangerous and counterproductive to locate this mega criminal center anywhere near a residential/school area. It is dangerous for children when criminals are released to wander the area near schools, and dangerous for residents when they wander around neighborhoods. Not to mention the devaluation of property values of having a mega large criminal complex next to an established neighborhood. There are much more suitable locations for such a complex, not near housing or schools.
How we build our system directly impacts how we function. By starting with the intentions of the infrastructure, we can integrate better functionality.
My concern is about funding such a large undertaking and making the project components acceptable to the voters. Yesterday was dominated by people who had a vested interest in the site and minimal interest in what was going to be accomplished and paid for.
Because my neighborhood borders one of the suggested sites
The site choice really affects all the other considerations.
A justice center belongs downtown, with easy access for those who will be using the facilities and services and with surrounding support services. It does not belong between residential communities and major recreational areas (fairgrounds, Bald Hill). It does not belong where it will substantially impact the value of hundreds of homes. It does not belong where there are hundreds of families that will be placed at risk of increased crime. It does not belong where the flora and fauna in land owned by the Greenbelt Land Trust will be negatively impacted by the increased traffic, sound, and light.
The site should NOT be located anywhere near a residential area, period!
Site will have an impact on almost all other factors
I believe that it is important for the new justice center to be easily available to residents who may benefit from services. I also feel it is important that our justice officers are immersed in the community they serve.
We have enough crazy people walking up and down third street. We don't criminals too.
Because site includes all the (the site can determine some of the funding needed, site determines what infrastructure is in place and proximity to exciting infrastructure, similar for the other two selections)

We absolutely need a justice center, but the site selection should be made cautiously, with absolute intention and focus. I am disheartened to hear the very vocal opposition of some west-side residents, which seems mostly hinged on emotional arguments rather than sound logic. While I was not able to join the Oct. 14 meeting (it said it was full), the article in the GT made my stomach turn. A neighbor showing how their surrounding nature will be impacted was an egregious parade of privilege. We should instead consider factors such as access to other areas of Corvallis, transportation, proximity to nearby support services, and whether the site is prone to flooding. As a Southtown resident, I am not opposed to a justice center going in my neighborhood, but the timing is not right for Southtown. We finally get some wins with ODOT making a concerted effort to improve access, equity and safety. We finally get a glimpse of hope for a more vibrant Southtown with the Urban Renewal District. We finally get folks paying attention to the danger and hazards we face simply moving about. Southtown is getting a shot in the arm. Let the medicine work before making a surgeon's cut! Highway 99 is still dangerous; flooding is still a threat. Crossing the highway and getting to north town is a hazard in of itself. We need to optimize Southtown before we can take on a justice center. The community here is astoundingly full of good will. But we have seen what happens when a wealthier area screams louder than us--we only must look to the men's cold weather shelter for evidence. I implore you to consider how a justice center in Southtown may trigger a major backslide in an already-depressed area. And I implore you to not let irrational NIMBY arguments drive the decision.
I feel strongly that the site should not be near existing residential neighborhoods.
Sites proposed are near residential areas, wetlands, parks, and would greatly impact traffic
This plan calls for a lot of money to be put into a building and staffing, when more success would come from giving that money to people in need. Let's treat the cause not the symptoms.
The site trumps all, because if the site has adverse impacts upon drainage, the environment, transportation, neighboring residential communities, safety, infrastructure, and access, then the site's potential impacts must be weighed. Community support must be gained for a site. I'd like you to pursue sites beyond the South and West locations.
The most important is site in terms of neighborhood SAFETY and transportation access and local impact.
Corvallis is a beautiful city full of many residents, houses, and schools. Locating jail and mental health services near any of these thriving and growing communities feel like this project is overvaluing the jail and mental health services and under valuing the schools and communities that will be negatively affected by these mega-structures.
I am mostly concerned about the site at 53rd and Reservoir related to the increase in traffic and safety with its proximity to the fairgrounds and Bald Hill Park area. I live on West Hills and the amount of traffic on this road has increased significantly in the past few years and I can count on one hand how many times I have seen a sheriff's vehicle monitoring traffic. The speed limit on this road is 45 but drivers are often driving much faster. Speeding, passing on double yellow lines, tailgating, road rage, passing on the right side in the shoulder lane, driving with half of the vehicle in the shoulder/bike lane. I have seen drivers passing in the right shoulder lane because they couldn't slow down and wait for the car in front of them to make a left turn into the Bald Hill Park area. If a bicyclist or walker/jogger had been in that lane at the time, they would have been killed. There are a lot of bicyclists and joggers along this road and there is no separation or protection for them. There needs to be a trail built that links Corvallis and Philomath that is separate from the roadway. Also, the Transportation System Plan indicates proposals for extension of the Clemens Mill Road and Industrial Way. Both of those proposals would give much improvement to the flow of traffic.

Because trauma to everyone in the system creates an obstacle to the healing and well-being that the justice system is meant to create.
I understand that the highest rated location north of Corvallis near HP was dismissed too quickly and would serve the city of Corvallis and Benton County much better than either of the other two sites. I feel strongly that this northern site needs to be reconsidered.
West location will be detrimental to local area
I am already convinced we need the center. I have voted for it before and would vote for it IF the site is right. I live on the west side near Oak Creek Drive so I'm more familiar with it, but I'm not saying that the South location is adequate. A decision this important should not be either/or. We keep losing and losing and damaging wetlands and wildlife habitat. It's always incremental. When does it stop? Site is important to me because once built it will be with us for a long time and no doubt will have both recognized and unintended/not yet fully recognized negative consequences. My concerns: impacts on Bald Hill Park, environment/watershed, increased traffic (especially if the Mary's River annexation produces a large development), livability. There's already been a large increase of traffic along 53rd in the last few years, between Harrison and Philomath Boulevard. Backups at the stop lights.
Many reasons that I will detail in a letter to commissioners shortly. I live in an area that would be negatively affected and I support my neighbors who live even closer and who oppose construction of a large municipal building with this function next to their houses and near a natural area, recreational trails, and wetland habitat.
That is the most critical consideration and decision, and poor site selection killed the last voter measure

What else do you want the commissioners to keep in mind during the site selection deliberations?
The reservoir road site is near several neighborhoods, a beautiful outdoor recreation area (Bald Hill) and the county fairgrounds. I worry that this location will affect property values, but I am also worried about personal safety.
The county presented 10's to 100's of millions of dollars needed for traffic improvement around the west site, but these expenses are not included in this proposal. They are all currently unfunded.
Community support and community impact
Access to transportation and other services for those upon release from incarceration.
Number of neighbors within 0.5 miles; Amount of community support (will be greater if fewer neighbors); How can the county balance the need for social and mental support services with "traditional policing"? Maybe fewer beds are needed, but more behavioral support services.
I want the commissioners to be honest with themselves about whether they're making a choice in order to get this on the 2022 ballot or because they think the site they've chosen is the best possible site for this incredibly important facility. If we can't find the right site in time, let's consider alternate options to get the facilities workable while we do the work of planning this.
Equity. Poorer neighborhoods tend to have less community involvement, not because they are unconcerned, but because they have often less time and energy to engage. A lack of response should not be considered tacit approval.

How dare you not consider the safety of the neighboring community? You allow no metric for community safety or support! You eliminated other sites because they were in residential areas. Grand Oaks and the surrounding neighborhoods (there are others affect besides Grand Oaks) do not warrant the same consideration?!? This is unacceptable. This site should have been nixed when you nixed the other residential locations. Ignoring that Grand Oaks is immediately adjacent to the proposed site is inexcusable, no matter the zoning for that parcel.
Impact of residential communities - the above items seem to ignore current residents' welfare
I am concerned about new development and the location of the development. Is the development necessary? What other sites were considered and how were they eliminated? What will be the impacts of the proposed new developments (environmental, light/noise pollution, impacts to residential communities, and more)? How does proposed development align with community development planning processes that are underway? Why weren't any specifics about the location of the sites in question shared at the meeting and why can't I find them on your website? What is the footprint of the proposed developments, both buildings and parking lots/driveways? Some commissioners shared the potential benefit of the new development that could arise at these locations, like stores and restaurants, which to me, given where I think we're talking about (again, still can't figure out the specific locations) is not in my mind a potential benefit. Was there any consideration for re-building within the current footprint of facilities rather than add new, which feels like sprawl? Why, if there was such good public engagement already, did I only just hear about any of this a few days ago when I'm someone who pays attention and stays informed about what's happening in the community? I was very troubled to hear two of the commissioners de-prioritize community support for what they will factor into their decisions. It leads me to believe concerned community members will be dismissed for just being NIMBY, which I don't feel is fair nor correct. My concerns about the location and footprint of the proposed developments extends beyond my neighborhood. I just don't have confidence in this process. Listing a handful of organizations, the project team gave presentations to does not to me feel like genuine and meaningful community engagement. I heard in the presentation tonight that the county has been engaged in this project for years, so I understand their interest in moving on to the next stage but based on what I saw in the chat tonight, there are many of us in the community who feel this process and decision is being rushed because of a self-imposed deadline. There are so many questions that have yet to be answered. Please remember that as commissioners you work for us and if many people are asking to slow this decision down so you can be sure your constituents are well-informed and have truly been heard, that should be your decision. Thank you.
Please do not make a hasty decision based on a perception that there is no time to waste.
Development plans, neighborhood visioning, refinement plans, urban renewal zones
That ONLY Southtown Property values have dropped in 25 years, just recently. That is DATA about the impact of local Government policy Negatively impacting Southtown. You think a jail is a step up from saturating us with homeless people, and allowing pretty much Any bad behavior in n Southtown? Other 'hoods NIMBY arguments are Baloney, and they get their way every time.
The West and South sites are inappropriate due to proximity to residential areas, transportation issues, and infringement on natural areas and wetlands. Both will fail at the ballot box
Please keep in mind the impact this will have to the people, homes, and neighborhoods with children near the west site. There are much better options within the county.
Carbon footprint, public transportation, current traffic problems, neighborhood livability.
How it will affect the long-term development of south Corvallis

Don't continue to stick south Corvallis with whatever is unwanted in other parts of Corvallis.
What are your neighbors and impact on transportation and future developments in the vicinity? West side would be a disaster transportation wise. Also, wetlands on property and issue with railroad and trestle. What affect will Mary's development have on area.
Proximity of related services
Can't think of any
Apparently, you are NOT considering the cost of updating roads to handle all the excessive traffic, NOR the loss of our property values. You just ignore us when we bring all that up.
A downtown location could accommodate all the proposed facilities, consistent with the historic plan. Two and one-quarter contiguous city blocks are already owned, and public domain condemnations could be used to acquire more space, perhaps the rest of the block bounded by 5th, 4th, Jackson, and Van Buren. Fifth Street between Jackson and Monroe could be closed, and the street area used for part of the campus. Perhaps additional office space in the Benton Hotel Building or other nearby buildings could be rented. I realize this is not an option currently being considered, but it would eliminate the NIMBY objections to the South and West proposals.
The south site may be more at risk of flooding, but its greater proximity to the city center is a great advantage.
Environmental impact, getting more community support; more voters, taxpayers, residents engaged, slow down, do this in a good way, consider that the right site may not be in your current field of vision
Listen to the community. Be flexible. I have never heard from anyone that they were happy about the County's purchase of the railroad.
Road condition and traffic condition. 53rd is busy. New housing area is planned already at roundabout. No possibility to avoid residential area when leaving the facility for any service. Added traffic will either come from busy Harrison, already congested Western/Philomath, or school/activity filled northwestern Corvallis. To mitigate that, only improving road condition can work but then there is residential area (north, south, east to Harrison), railway bridge (south) and unavoidable Philomath/Western/53rd if go from west. No other facility will follow suite as sunset square is within a mile. Not a choice for future proof.
I don't think anyone wants a new justice center to close to their home and neighborhood; I think it obviously will negatively impact the "blue sky" of any Corvallis area. Wherever you do decide, though, I think you should spend enough money to SO positively affect an area that neighborhoods actually *want* this entire package. It would perhaps be easier to sell this more positive package-deal to a community.
Public Safety
Neighborhood safety
The location needs to not be driven by wealthier people having more influence than less wealthy people. There is a lot of NIMBY on this project, but "more affordable" areas tend to have less clout putting a higher burden on the same areas over and over.
Safety, property value depreciation and increased traffic
It's obvious to me you will have to split up the project. I think downtown site is too small for everything and jail would be better situated in less populated area. South Corvallis site looks good for jail. But the more intensive operations serving public (various services, courts, etc.) need to happen where people are -- downtown.

53rd Street site is bad unless for just jail. 1. Traffic/access problems, i.e. Harrison Blvd is two lanes and never going to be otherwise. 2. Neighbors in subdivision to south won't like it. I don't know why this is so hard to understand.
You're relying on some sort of checklist that removes thinking from the process. I think it would be better to think about this holistically. More common sense would be desirable. But I guess you want documentation to fall back on.
We chose to live in this neighborhood for MANY reasons...one of them was that there is ZERO crime here. It is a safe neighborhood to raise children. You said in your meeting you discounted residential sites, yet you chose to site your jail NEXT DOOR to a residential site. This boggles the mind!!! I know Corvallis Landscape is a cheap buy (they are in financial trouble), but cheap cost should not be the determiner of location. You wouldn't want this jail located next to your house, so why do you wonder why we don't want it near ours???
The County has not conducted any evaluation of the relationship between their site location and other ongoing efforts underway involving the city, the South Corvallis Urban Renewal District, the South Corvallis Area Plan, or ODOT's Highway 99/3rd Street Corridor Improvements. The County can't be this siloed when there is so much going on. How does this fit in? Put the evaluation in writing.
We are organizing to defeat the bond and recall the commissioners if West or South Site are chosen.
Additional access routes in case of major earthquake or other natural disasters. When considering the South Corvallis site, the “Southern Gateway” appearance of a correctional facility at the city limits.
Access for sheriff and police to court and jail facility on joint campus
I would rather the commission take time to select of the most suitable site even if it costs more money. Have a long-range vision for Corvallis and sustainable city development.
Geographical equity.
This needs more time to be vetted through the community, especially when we homeowners are footing the bill.
Cost. Not just upfront cost, but cost to the community, to the neighbors, to home values, to future development, etc.
The community. South town has many more pedestrians than the other sites and we are already hosting the house-less population.
The jail belongs either at the HP site or by the airport. It does not belong adjacent to family homes.
That we DON'T want this shoved down our South-Town throats. You own the downtown site. Because Grand Oaks folks are possibly more vocal, do not doubt the ire of your South Town constituents and their votes. I will vote “NO" for funding the jail until a site has been confirmed and you can show us the cost breakdown. And you want us to fund this after the county announces it has just given raises and bonuses to its workforce?
More sites might be viable if the planned jail is smaller.
McFadden should be pursued as it would be accepted by all in the county
I do not believe the commissioners have faith in crisis center success because of lumping all other facilities into bond. Bond will fail if correctional facility is chosen near a neighborhood.
BOTH OPTION 1 AND 2 ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR NUMEROUS REASONS!!!!!!!!!! To push forward with those two options only insures a HUGE waste of time and resources. The bond will be doomed from passing. Come on here, admit to a misstep Commissioners and do the right thing! McFadden property should be acquired - why are you shying away from this???
Long term land use planning and road infrastructure deficits

Site the functions (courts, corrections, sheriff's office) in a manner that creates efficiencies related to adjacencies and minimizes staffing. The capital costs are paid once, the operational costs continue forever, including PERS.
After the NIMBY response at this meeting, I'm fearful for any bond measures. So information for all the homes nearby and within in city of whom gets housed in the jail (vs. prisons?) and condition of current jail (more jail open houses?) ... and another look at the costs of putting this all downtown. I wonder what was in the flyers alerting some of those near the Fairgrounds of the meeting.
Caving into the demands of areas with louder voices and money and shoving all the distasteful things under the rug of South Corvallis will merely make a huge area designed by the city council to be a future tax tar baby full of problems. Look ahead forty years and consider that you may be creating an entire city section that will drag everything down.
What your actions will mean to the property values, health and safety of the residents who will bear the brunt of this reckless decision if the jail is built on Reservoir Road. One city official actually told a neighbor that the county did not want to site the jail out by the airport BECAUSE IT WOULD NEGATIVELY EFFECT COMMERCIAL property values. What about our property values?
I live in Southtown you want to give us homeless camps and jails we can't even get a decent grocery store
Certainly, impact to existing residential neighborhoods.
Value, impact on residential, transportation, process
Surrounding environment, impacts to natural areas and migration corridors
That there is much opposition to locating this complex near any residential area or schools. The commissioners are doing a great disservice to their constituents if they approve a site (whether south town or the west side) near long established housing areas, schools, and wetlands which are environmentally sensitive.
Please keep your emergency manager in the discussion. They will be coordinating the response to any kind of emergency there and will have specific insight to how we can prepare the infrastructure to mitigate harm for the community and those in the justice system.
Get the best site for effective operation of the facility now and for next 50 years. If the concerns of those attending happen then plan for that to avoid impacts in the future
Flow of traffic. It’s already very congested to drive up and down S 3rd. There are not alternative routes.
The proximity of the site to residential neighborhoods. Distance matters.
Commissioners need to keep in mind first and foremost the welfare of the community and the impact that the placement of a justice center near so many residences will have on the quality of life for the people living there, for their safety, for their property values (a decline of which will represent not just a financial loss for the owners but also for the city with lower taxes paid). They must also keep in mind the impact that a justice center will have on major recreational areas in the county (fairgrounds, Bald Hill).
Based on the community feedback at the September 29th meeting, this project has absolutely zero support from the Grand Oaks community. You would be forcing this facility on a group of Benton County homeowners who purchased their homes believing that they would live in a safe, quiet, and uncongested area.
South Corvallis already has done our part of the dirty work, time for the rest of Corvallis to step up. South third is already a driving hazard we don't need more traffic.

Impact of neighbors and future adjacent development.
See above.
If site is near any existing Corvallis neighborhood, I will vote no on the bond measure.
Other sites: the current two do not look acceptable
I would like the Commissioners to also consider all the City and community efforts that have been put into Southtown in the past 10 years to improve everything from land use to connectivity to livability and the efforts to transform part of Southtown into a neighborhood center. These efforts are also attempting to establish this area a "gateway" to Corvallis. Southtown lacks most of the shopping and business amenities prevalent in the rest of Corvallis. Adding these Justice Center buildings in Southtown are not what we've been asking for and would be unwelcome.
I want Commissioners to reconsider the distance to downtown civil services if very important. Distance from amenities like the Men's Shelter, and social services is important. Reduced drive time to lessen greenhouse gas emissions is important. Transportation infrastructure to support the site must be in place. There should be no large residential areas directly next to the site. And most importantly, community support and opposition should be on your list of considerations and considered criteria. It is ridiculous that this is not on the list. You are our representatives. Please represent us.
Besides the cost, please consider how many families will be affected in the future and how likely the bond will be passed.
Impact to neighborhood safety when inmates released at the front door of the jail. Road improvement to make the Justice Center function well, for both law enforcement access and neighborhood residents.
Location to schools and residential areas. As someone originally from the Midwest, where jail services are generally in more remote locations, it's unfathomable how close to schools these sites are.
Has the way(s) in which this project will impact the existing surrounding community been considered? All the items on the list above (funding, site, infrastructure, etc.) are important but there are a lot of residential properties, fairgrounds with activities for families and children, effect on property values. Do any of the decisionmakers live in the nearby area? How will this project impact their lifestyle?
Access to all
They need to reexamine why the northern site was excluded when it was much better and not near neighborhoods or a prominent recreation area - Bald Hill. The northern site also has better infrastructure including roads that can handle the additional traffic. 53rd already backs up with people trying to turn right on Reservoir Rd.
Make sure outside study is completed about neighborhood impact, not just from those who will gain.
A few years ago I thought the fairgrounds investigated and was planning to go forward with a remodel and construction of a Benton County Fairground and Exposition Center? That's adjacent to the proposed West site. Could be important economically to our county to develop a set of facilities that could be used by broad segments of the community. The current fairgrounds seem underutilized and looks more and more dumpy…. unloved and uncared for. What happened to that plan? I haven't heard it discussed in the justice center conversations. If a justice center there precedes it, it may then negate or cramp BC fairgrounds opportunities that may be a golden opportunity for the county and its residents.

I realize the need for justice system improvements—especially the need for adequate mental health, transitional housing, and substance abuse resources. And I really appreciate the work that has gone into this process. However, neither the south nor the west site is appropriate for a large municipal building, and the inclusion of on a ballot measure would lead to its ultimate rejection. The west site, especially, is wholly inappropriate for this kind of development. I hope these discussions will continue and that residents are invited to help the County find more workable solutions. This is not a NIMBY complaint, and it's not just about property taxes this time: the opposition to these sites and the haphazard public engagement process is shared by those who live nearby, their neighbors, their neighbors' neighbors, and all who want solutions that a. work to promote community safety, b. provide services and treatment to those at risk of entering the criminal justice system, and c. preserve our quality of life and the integrity of our recreational and natural areas. (That last one is important, and I hope folks remember how much it is valued.)
Other things the commissioners should consider: Public opposition or support (mostly opposition so far, at least out here on the west side); noise and light pollution (a MAJOR issue) and its effect on nearby residents and wildlife—esp. for the west site near Bald Hill Natural Area, home to at least 11 Oregon Conservation Strategy species; opportunities for addressing elements of the improvement separately and with a staggered timeline rather than as a rushed package deal; the inappropriate siting of a municipal building adjacent to natural areas, parks, recreational trails, and residential subdivisions; wildlife habitat - the west site is a designated locally significant wetland and habitat/ecosystem services would be degraded by any further development on this site; serious traffic issues on the west side--Harrison/53rd/etc.—cannot handle more traffic or development at this time; recreational and viewshed impacts on one of the most popular trails in Corvallis (Midge Cramer); community safety concerns by our neighbors in Grand Oaks; proximity to downtown services and public transport (multimodal paths are just not as relevant here); how this fits into the climate change plan; the need for more open spaces and trails (instead of more development) to take pressure off current trail systems and trailhead travel corridors; the fact that most of my neighbors are only now finding out details about these site selections and discussions since some of us have been able to attend meetings, the mixed messages delivered in meetings and confusion about the downtown site as not actually a legit alternative (many I've talked to do not understand that it isn't being presented as an actual building location); etc.
I will be sending brief letters on Friday 10/22. Thanks for reading this long list and for your continued consideration.
Community support, and proximity to housing

Please provide any additional comments or questions about the Justice System Improvement Program.
This process has been rushed and not public. This bond will not pass.
Has anyone considered simply replacing the current jail with a prefab facility that would allow us to provide acceptable space for inmates while we make a better choice and focus on the pretrial program and other services?

You are trying to meet some arbitrary deadline in November and desperately choosing a site, rather than truly finding a site that the community will support. Take the time and find a better site. Otherwise, we will fight this bond passing with every fiber of our beings. Also, your research is sadly lacking. The comparison reports and sites you have shared have been sadly lacking, even laughable. The Grand Oaks study was conducted by academics and professionals and is the most accurate data we have regarding community impact. Please show us some respect, recognize the data, and pick an alternate site!
Again, the County seems to be rushing to push a decision without considering important information.
Please be more transparent, equitable, and inclusive in your process and in involving and informing the community.
The north site is hands down the best location. The zoning is easily changed. The property should be condemned, and the owner compensated.
The west site is the next best option. There are no concerns about access during flooding, it is not at a gateway for visitors to Corvallis, the rich neighbors on the hill won't know it's there, it won't be stealing tax revenue from an urban renewal zone.
The need for 120 beds is not clear; comparing population to other counties in the most incarcerated nation on the planet does not justify it. Especially when most of the people being held have never been convicted of a crime. That is highly unethical and probably illegal.
120 beds is excessive. Stop insisting the government-owned block in the center of downtown is "impossible." Or condemn the north site. (Is North impossible because the NW deep pockets will threaten to stop being boosters to pet projects?) We're not stupid down here.
Please re-approach McFadden (HP campus) or the city of Corvallis (downtown site) to find an appropriate site. Have the courage to do what is right for Benton County and avoid another failed bond measure
Please reject locating the site directly adjacent to existing neighborhoods and select a site away from existing homes.
Please consider allowing more than 100 participants in the zoom sessions
Please consider the needs of trans people in the design
I am steadfastly opposed to either the West or South site, as are all my neighbors. We will be working to actively defeat the bond measure if either of these sites is chosen. PLUS, we DO NOT WANT to import criminals from other counties.
I am concerned that unless the projects are phased in over time, the price tag will be too high for the community to accept. The jail is the most pressing need.
Given the recent changes in Oregon laws, e.g., Measure 110 and growing environmental concerns, e.g., drought, perhaps temporary fixes are better until the best site appears and until we have a chance to see how our current legislative experiments work.
A new jail is a necessity. Resources for mental health and addiction are important. Do we really need a new courthouse or could the current one meet code?
Prepare more improved training, hire more personnel, purchase more advanced protective equipment and then increase patrolling can work much better.
Are you considering air-quality and the results of increased density to these two possible sites (and their neighbors, including travel routes)?
this is just looking like a way to get the bond measure passed.
The immediate downtown area should be minimally impacted by traffic, etc.

Jail should not be near any residential areas even if the costs are high. The bond measure for jail will fail again if this suggestion is ignored.
I know most people don't want to get rid of the old courthouse, but this whole endeavor would go a lot easier if we could use that parcel for part of new law enforcement space. Sell the remnants of it to raise funds. Old building is going to be the gift that never stops giving us headaches as we have to maintain it until "The Big One" takes it down. A new building could be the phoenix rising from its ashes. After a couple years people will forget that old building.
I fear you're up against a deadline and can't decide what to do. Hi Xan, Pat, Nancy.
Your Jail/other bldgs. belong DOWNTOWN...not in residential neighborhoods.
Top-down planning exercises have been doomed to fail for the last half century. Rational-technical approaches to planning conducted entirely behind closed doors by professional experts have no place in a pluralistic society. That's what led to the selection of these two sites. This needs to be a bottom-up effort. The first questions should not be, "what are our goals?" but instead, "what can we reasonably expect to achieve?" The answer to that question would include much more community involvement from the outset. That is not compatible with conducting your site selection in secret because you need to obtain an option to buy before making a site public. It all but rules out any property not already owned by the County. You need to accept that and move forward with that constraint.
Site the Corrections Facility Downtown or another non-residential area.
It was very apparent that many of the participants had no background information or knowledge of the process. The Public needs to be better educated on the need for the larger correctional facility, why the courthouse is no longer functional or safe, etc. There is a large contingent that believes the County can wield their power of imminent domain and force landowners to give them any property they want.
Crisis Center downtown but court, jail and sheriff on west campus.
I strongly urge you to consider the McFadden site, as it seems that both the west and south sites have some issues on some of the points of consideration that the McFadden site would alleviate. Also, I don't think it is good city planning to build a large facility of this nature next door to the county fairgrounds and one of our city's most beloved natural areas.
I think we need to look deeply into what rehabilitation means and the most effective way to service the needs of offenders. Let's look at the studies about incarceration and recidivism, let's be innovators and show how Corvallis and this county are solving problems instead of doing what's always been done and is proven to not work. Finally, I didn't see any data on if this incarceration center be run by a private company, who profits on heads in beds?
This entire project should be scrapped. Make do with 40 beds and look at other models to address criminals and if there is even a need for pre-trial incarceration. Repurpose an existing facility for a courthouse. Treatment and counseling are already available through multiple sources, including the county health department.
Please don’t let a bunch of rich, white neighborhoods out speak south town. South town takes the hit for this Corvallis constantly.
My vote for the bond will be based 100% on proposed location.

It's rather obvious that the Grand Oaks people are doing the NIMBY also so build the damn jail in the downtown area where you already own the land. And all those millions you want to spend for 120 beds??? You've got to be kidding?? I want to see cost comparisons for other jails that have recently been built. Put extra courtrooms in the building and keep it contained to the downtown area. Southtown land is flat and farmable. Let's not gobble up all our agricultural land for another ugly building. The Law Enforcement building should be near the jail in case officers need to restock their vehicles, change clothes, take a break, write reports, etc. And a downtown location would be nearer to the hospital. Are you omitting inmate safety and care as a consideration for site placement?? Having a southern location for a jail would add several minutes to a hospital trip in order to navigate downtown traffic, crosswalks on South 3rd St., the school zone, and multiple bus stops.
I am interested to know about the county paid staffing that has built up around the effort to get a ballot measure passed.
The public outreach has been poor
How about building a new Corvallis police station and converting existing building into correctional facility for both sheriff and CPD?
SLOW DOWN AND RE-EVALUATE!!!!!!!!!! IT'S OK TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ON SOMETHING THIS IMPORTANT. (Yes, I'm "yelling" on purpose - pay attention to your constituents)
Need to place causal factors influencing inmate behaviors above lockup head counts
I had to try 4 times to get in, with the 100 maximum that left lots not able to enter, I was tenacious as still trying to get more familiar with the plans, I suspect many just quit after one try.
Doing a rush job and permitting hasty and badly planned development to create the needed infrastructure to service the Jail is short sighted. This will create problems that will spread and become worse over time.
Again, it is reckless and irresponsible to even consider placing a jail across from Bald Hill Natural Area. Families, young children, OSU students, dog walkers, hikers, and the handicapped use all the paths that lead to Bald Hill and Bald Hill proper for daily recreation every hour of the day. Why in the world does it make ANY SENSE to put a jail there. Maybe because it's convenient and cost-effective, but what are the REAL COSTS to ALL of Corvallis and especially those of us who live in proximity. Keep in mind that Bald Hill Natural Area is used by most of Corvallis...it's the most accessible and provides the easiest access to a quiet, natural, peaceful place. If you site the jail on Reservoir Road you will be destroying the reason why Bald Hill, Midge Cramer Path, and Campus Way were created. I've watched as this city and county have approved HUGE student housing complexes to the detriment of the community and the landscape. Now you want to compromise the safety and financial investment of those of us who live near Reservoir Road and forever destroy a recreational natural area that was created to be enjoyed by all Corvallis residents.
I live in Southtown you're willing to give us homeless camps in jails and we can't even get a decent grocery store
Value to me means something worth what you pay for it and what service you get from your acquisition. Of course, not everyone sees value the same. Benton County and Corvallis are a relatively affluent part of the state. We can afford to do things well or at least with a degree of critical thinking. We don't need to settle for the cheapest or most expedient. Further, regarding value, the W. Corvallis site has extensive wetlands and an active creek. So, the site is very limited in usable area and barely meets the minimum requirement of 14 acres. Why acquire land that isn't usable and pay for it?
Residential uses do not belong near a jail or prison. Even the County seems in the ranking system to agree with this. Yet the W. Corvallis site is immediately adjacent to a significant housing development. Seems the County is violating its own criteria and standards. Should this site not be eliminated?

Regarding transportation, the McFadden site is far superior to any other site considered according to the County's own evaluation. Not only is it better, but it is also head and shoulders better. Why is the Commission ignoring this FACT and eliminating the McFadden site? Transportation is one of the advantages of the McFadden property (access to Hwy 20 a probably Circle Blvd) while transportation to W. Corvallis is severely hampered by dangerous roads, lack of transportation services and facilities, poor level of service at key intersections and dangerous (or non-extent) bike and pedestrian facilities. There is no safe or convenient route from the W. Corvallis site to downtown or the campus.
The process the County is following is seriously flawed and lacks accountability and an effective public participation process. The County is not listening to the public and has involved the public too late in the process. The process is driven by a consultant and not by the community or (apparently) even the County Commission. There are very slick and professional exhibits and meetings are very controlled and manipulated by the consultants. But the public has been involved only at the late stages and is being dismissed or "splined to" by the consultants. The public is being disrespected and sidelined at every turn.
The BEST site needs to be back in the mix. The McFadden parcel has been rated BEST by the consultants and by County staff (their own analysis). McFadden may cost more, but price is not an overriding criterion or even the most important criteria. In any case, the County doesn't even know that it would be more expensive. The County very, very clearly can acquire the McFadden site. The only thing that is needed is a County Commission that can direct staff (and the out of town, highly compensate consultants) to put the McFadden site back on the agenda, hire a qualified and experienced person or firm to assist in proceeding with an eminent domain process, hold new rounds of meetings, seek public input, then decide .... which will likely be to pursue the McFadden property. The County can always proceed with eminent domain and secure the property in time to proceed with construction on the County's timeline.
Please continue looking for a suitable site that is away from neighborhoods and natural areas. Somewhere already developed or zoned as industrial
This is an agenda item that the commissioners are rushing to push through without adequate time for the involvement of the citizens of this community. They seem to be putting the needs of hardened criminals ahead of law-abiding tax paying citizens.
1. How can the jail be built to offer more than just a holding place for inmates? I.e.: water catchment, community garden, disaster ready.
I have not been able to find the report that was used to determine the size. also are ancillary facilities to assist the users going to be included in the building. Also, this is the most expensive housing in Benton County and only people who can't use an alternative should be detained there.
I find the attaching of a Mental Health Center that is almost entirely paid for a disingenuous tactic to seek more funding for law enforcement.
I have a hard time supporting you when you won't even do anything about the invasion of homeless. You look the other way when people camp in our parks, break into our cars and rob our homes. But God forbid you have a light out or make an illegal turn, off to jail for anyone with enough money to extort. Are you building the jail to incarcerate anyone who doesn't agree with you?
Citizens should be able to easily attend public input meetings via Zoom, not be blocked by capacity constraint
We will not get a bond passed with little support for the site moving into the process. Please consider other sites beyond the south and west sites. Both are problematic and have strong community opposition.

Please select a solution would solve long-term problems instead of short term. The most important, put the community support be higher priority.
Can the busy two-lane 53rd street without any shoulder allow safe and quick emergency response vehicles to pass without hitting other motorists, considering the addition of 1000-unit Mary's Annexation? How about safety impact to Bald Hills and Fairgrounds with local inmate release? It'll make them more unusable to the public and more difficult to manage for the city/county than the already wasted downtown parks.
I found out about this through word of mouth and then some email communications. While there probably was extensive planning around this, it feels like a $10M decision is being communicated and approved in a span of 4 months. This also was being done without really relying on any community input, whatsoever.
I plan to vote against any bond measure for this as none of the proposed locations are acceptable.
Does the public get a chance to vote on this issue?
How did the site selection process go so wrong in excluding the highest ranked site that would be much better for the city and county in terms of access, and impact?
I was locked out of the meeting, despite registering early. My voice was not heard
Unfortunately, I am one of the community members who registered and could not get into the zoom meeting due to the 100-person limit. But I've done as much reading as I can and have requested a couple times by email that a recording be posted, and the link be sent to community members (or at the very least all of us who registered). Haven't received notice about that yet.
Thank you for your work on improving our justice system. And thank you, Commissioners, for postponing yesterday's vote on the site selection. Since I worked all weekend and this week, I only now have the time to begin drafting letters, and I know several neighbors will soon be sending in comments as well.
You guys seem clueless on the criticality and implications of siting on bond measure success or failure

Appendix D: Questions and Answers

At the September 8 Virtual Community Meetings, as well as the September 29 Grand Oaks Neighborhood Zoom Meeting, participants asked a wide range of questions in the Zoom chat and Q&A function. After each meeting, staff consolidated questions, wrote answers, and posted questions and answers for that meeting on the program website. Below are the website questions and answers, organized by meeting date.

September 8 Virtual Community Meeting Questions and Answers

Q: Are people at the Courthouse aware the victims are not separate and in close quarters to the accused?
A: As it currently stands, the Historic Courthouse does not provide the means for keeping crime victims entirely separated from the accused. This is a shortcoming of the Historic Courthouse and is something that a new courthouse will address.

Q: Are the proposed facilities designed with flexibility in mind for future needs?
A: DLR Group, an engineering and design firm hired by the County to manage facilities work in the Predesign Phase, is designing the facilities with a 40- to 50-year horizon. One of the primary drivers in the suburban site selection process was room for expansion.

The actual design of facilities does not occur until the next phase of the program, called the Implementation Phase. However, DLR Group's conceptual designs during the current phase incorporate flexibility that will allow us to meet best practices as we move forward.

Q: Are there any opportunities for the County and City to house their court functions in the same building for County/City efficiencies?
A: The City and County have collaborated on the Justice System Improvement Program dating back to the Criminal Justice System Assessment and throughout the program's Predesign Phase. There is an ongoing collaboration between our respective law enforcement agencies, between the County Administrator and City Manager, between elected officials, and on our Justice System Improvement Program Technical and Community Advisory Committees. In the early stages of the Predesign phase, there was a discussion between the County and City regarding housing the City's Municipal Court in the proposed new County Courthouse. Ultimately, the proposal was dismissed; the City will manage its Municipal Court needs.

Q: Are there potential drawbacks for a downtown location for the new courthouse?
A: There are some challenges, including:

1. The County is negotiating to purchase property adjacent to the County's 5th Street building, but the site is not been secured by a Letter of Intent to date.
2. Development cost is higher, primarily because of the size and shape of the site under consideration downtown.
3. Parking is always a constraint downtown.

Q: Can you tell me more about the Emergency Operations Center?
A: The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) provides space for both training and emergency operations activities. Currently, the County does not have an EOC that's sufficient in size to serve the County's

needs. When the EOC was activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County utilized four different facilities, moving three times. The proposed Emergency Operations Center is approximately 10,000 square feet, and can be either a standalone facility or integrated into a new law enforcement building. Like a law enforcement building, an EOC is built to robust standards in order to withstand severe seismic or weather events. When not being used for emergency operations, it can be used for training or meeting purposes by the County, other municipalities, or by the public. The proposed EOC will include various sized/configurable meeting spaces, restroom facilities, kitchen, and support service space.

Q: Has a traffic impact study been done for the west location? The existing roads, West Hills, Harrison, and Philomath highway are substandard and over used now.
A: A traffic impact study is underway, with data collection beginning once OSU fall term begins. A similar study was conducted for the south site earlier this year. Results from the west site traffic study are expected in mid-October 2021.

Q: Has any of the funding come from COVID relief funds?
A: The County is fortunate to have the opportunity to seek additional funding for many County programs due to COVID relief funds. We are seeking $1 million in American Rescue Plan funding for our Emergency Operations Center. Our Crisis Center is also receiving funding ($2.25 million to date) from the State and Federal government, in part through American Rescue Plan dollars. - Answered by Commissioner Xan Augerot during the September 8 meeting

Q: Have you considered implementing a local sales tax so that the cost of these facilities is not placed squarely on property owners?
A: Sales taxation is not within the scope of the Justice System Improvement Program.

Q: How can you reassure the public that an increase in jail beds won't lead to an increase in arrests? Will you be collecting data to examine for this possibility?
A: A programmatic element of the Justice System Improvement Program is Data Evaluation and Metrics, which will measure the program's success, ensure equitable practices, and to monitor outcomes like arrest rates.

At the same time it is important to note that Benton County's arrest rate has been impacted by its lack of jail space. The County's use of cite and release, rather than arrest, is 2- to 3-times what is considered the norm, based on the conclusions of CGL, who conducted the Assessment, at the outset of the Justice System Improvement Program. Data will help the County establish, monitor, and maintain an appropriate arrest rate, and to analyze and understand trends and changes.

Q: How do the percentages of BIPOC people arrested and/or incarcerated compare to the percentage they make up of our community's population? In other words, is there much racial disproportionality in our local justice system?
A: As part of the 2018 Criminal Justice System Assessment, Benton County looked into this very question. We found that due to the lack of representation of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals within the Benton County population, anytime a BIPOC individual is in custody, it is an overrepresentation. Benton County is engaging Ari Basil-Wagner with Greater Oregon Behavior Health, Inc. to update the data that was gathered during our 2018 assessment. When we have that updated data, we will be better equipped to see trends over time and other valuable insights. Answered by Commissioner Xan Augerot during the September 8 meeting.

Q: How does the location of the corrections facility impact the operational costs with concepts 1 -2 and concept 3?
A: The difference in operating costs between the west and south sites is virtually nonexistent. This is because both sites will require the adults in custody be transported to downtown Corvallis, and the drive times from either site to downtown are essentially equal.

Both sites offer good access to and from the rest of the County. The primary operations considerations are the location of the proposed new courthouse, whether co-located with the proposed correctional facility and Sheriff's Office on the south or west site, or located downtown.

Q: If the courthouse is deemed too unsafe for the public as a courthouse, how will it be deemed safe for the public as not a courthouse?
A: Courthouse safety falls into several categories, but the two primary categories discussed during the September 8 meeting were seismic safety and public safety relative to courthouse operations.

If the historic Benton County courthouse is no longer used as a courthouse (likely due to construction of a new, modern courthouse) then operational safety will no longer be an issue. Regarding seismic safety, the historic Courthouse does not meet current seismic standards, but it is not structurally unsafe. The Commissioners discussed the seismic shortcomings of the Historic Courthouse in 2020 and agreed that upgrades need to be made if the Courthouse will continue to be used for County government functions.

Q: If we seriously implement CAHOOTS-like solutions over the next few years, are we going to end up with a jail that's just too big?
A: The proposed new Correctional Facility size of approximately 120 beds is based on conclusions by CGL, who conducted the Justice System Improvement Program Assessment. These conclusions were verified in 2020 by DLR Group, the County's consultant on the Justice System Improvement Program's Predesign Phase.

The size recommendation considers various programs, many of which the County is pursuing or implementing, that reduce the number of adults in custody. It's important to note that on average, across the nation and in Oregon, correctional facilities typically operate at no more than 80 percent capacity. This means on any given day, a 120-bed facility has no more than 96 adults in custody. In the unlikely event Benton County is extremely successful at reducing the number of adults in custody, the County is confident it could rent beds to one of the neighboring four counties.

Q: Is the south site in a 100-year floodplain?
A: The south site is not in a 100-year floodplain. There is a 100-year floodplain site to the north of the south site. The County is aware of the possibility, though remote, of the south site being cut off from a direct route north on OR 99W to downtown Corvallis due to flooding in south Corvallis. The Benton County Board of Commissioners will consider that risk when making a final site selection decision.

Q: What are the additional annual operational costs if the Courthouse is not co-located with the Correctional Facility?
A: To date, the costs have not been studied in detail. The answer depends on the number of transports per week, and that could change in a post-COVID pandemic world. A detailed study will be conducted for the Board of Commissioners' consideration prior to making a final decision on a location for the proposed new courthouse.

Q: What are the realms of ideas for how the courthouse would be used for otherwise?
A: The Historic Benton County Courthouse Feasibility Study, which describes options for repurposing the courthouse, is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, November 9, during the Board's Goal Setting meeting. The Feasibility Study will be posted to the Justice System Improvement Program's website shortly after.

Q: What are the tax ramifications of this bond? What will this cost us?
A: The final bond measure amount has not been determined. Based on the 2020 property tax roll (the 2021 tax roll has not been finalized), if the bond were $100 million, the cost for the average Benton County property owner is about $.80 per $1,000 in assessed value. For a home with an assessed value of $350,000, the rate equates to a $280 tax increase. The rate will be updated when the 2021 tax roll is available, and again when the final bond amount is determined, sometime in 2022.

Q: Where are the equity considerations on these locations?
A: Site selection began in June 2020 and included an exhaustive, objective data-driven process. The entire process was as follows:

1. Mapped areas of 15 acres or more in or near the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary.
2. Weighted 40+ possible sites using 32 factors.
3. Narrowed to 10 properties – 5 downtown, 5 suburban.
4. County and real estate broker approached property owners to explore viability of sale.
5. Narrowed sites to 3 based on outcome of #4 – 1 downtown, 2 suburban.
6. Joint City and County task force formed to conduct due-diligence investigations.
7. Board of Commissioners appointed purchase negotiating team to advance Letters of Intent.
8. Currently testing 3 site-specific conceptual designs with the County community.

Sites across all geographic locations in or near the Corvallis Urban Growth Boundary were considered initially, before being weighed and explored for purchase. In early 2021, the County pursued a site in north Corvallis adjacent to Hewlett-Packard, but the owner decided against selling.

Q: Where is the west site relative to the Corvallis Fault?
A: The Corvallis Fault does not intersect the site. It runs to the northwest and southwest of the site.

Q: Why are we no longer renting beds from Lincoln County?
A: Benton County did rent beds from Lincoln County at one time. However, Lincoln County has taken a different direction relative to the use of its facility and has stopped renting beds to other counties. Answered by Sheriff Van Arsdall during the September 8 meeting.

Q: Will the RV park being built in Philomath be taken into consideration when conducting the Traffic Impact Analysis?
A: Traffic study counts will begin immediately following OSU's fall term beginning, with the study completed by mid-October 2021. Whether or not the RV park is included in the study will depend on the opening date of the park.

Q: With people being directed to the Crisis Center, would you expect the jail population to decrease?
A: The purpose of the Crisis Center is to provide a treatment-centered alternative to incarceration or the emergency room. As such, the County expects the Crisis Center, and other programs it is implementing

as part of the Justice System Improvement Program, including its behavioral health/law enforcement co-response team, and enhanced pretrial services, to help reduce incarcerations.

Grand Oaks Neighborhood Sept. 29 Meeting Questions and Answers

Q: Are you going to add a lane to 53rd and to Reservoir?
A: The bond measure may include transportation improvements in the area of 53rd Street and Reservoir Road, but specific improvements have not been discussed to date.

Q: Are you going to expand the roads around this to prevent traffic pile up?
A: Traffic improvements on 53rd Street could be made in conjunction with the bond measure.

Q: Can the old courthouse be deconstructed and reconstructed somewhere else in the county (as a museum, maybe?), so that the land could be used to build a new Sheriff's office +jail + emergency center + Elections office + DA's office?
A: DLR Group concluded, based on the historic Courthouse's unreinforced masonry concrete construction, the building could not be deconstructed and reconstructed elsewhere.

Q: Can you provide us an accurate study about the reduction of property values when a new center is built (not when existing centers are improved in existing locations)?
A: Yes, please see Correctional Facility Establishments and Neighborhood Housing Characteristics, by Kelly McGeever, 2018

Q: Can you provide us with the study or data summary that recommends a 120-bed correctional facility for Benton County?
A: Please see pages 92-93 of the Assessment, which DLR Group updated as part of its Predesign work. The 120-bed recommendation is an approximation, not an absolute.

Q: Did the data include proximity to quiet peaceful neighborhoods and the impact to their residents and property values?
A: Proximity to a neighborhood was one of many site selection criteria.

Q: Do you have any examples of other towns of similar size that have jails that are not in commercial or retail districts but instead are in residential areas?
A: SCORE Correctional Facility, in Des Moines, WA: https://goo.gl/maps/3bGmf9kUm7N5ybLp8 Coffee Creek Correctional Center, in Wilsonville, OR: Borders residences to its east: https://goo.gl/maps/MssXuiS15wU4GWcA6

Crook County Jail, in Prineville, OR: It's in an urban setting, but directly adjacent to many single family residences: https://goo.gl/maps/yLyA5ejsoGxP5SP48

Maui Community Correctional Facility, in Wailuku, HI: https://goo.gl/maps/VjgMZ5x43BfUgM198

Q: How about light pollution to nearby houses?
A: Overall, the proposed facilities require no excessive lighting. For example, there will not be searchlights or anything designed that is beyond the lighting required by code for walking paths, parking lots, and door entries.

Q: How much does the new facility cost? Plus the budget for additional staffing?
A: Proposed facility costs (in $ millions) are as follows (net of state/federal allocations):

Correctional Facility	$50
Crisis Center	$2-$5
New Courthouse with District Attorney	$35
Sheriff's Office without/with Emergency Operations Center	$16-$25
Repurposing Historic Benton County Courthouse	$0-$20

These are the best cost ranges available to us at this time, in the absence of engineering design documents. Operation costs will be planned for and factored into the next two biennium budgets (2023-25 and 2025-27) to support an expansion of staff for the Justice System Improvement Program, or other County operations. With the proposed new Correctional Facility, the County will no longer need to spend up to $1.5 million annually on out-of-county jail beds and associated transportation.

Q: How will you address the issues we already have with people walking on the rail tracks and getting injured? It seems like that will be a common path from this facility.
A: On release, adults in custody will have several options for transportation including being met by family or friends, public transportation, transportation by the CORE Team or Sheriff's Office to the Crisis Center, possibly leveraging the Sheriff's court transport process to downtown (assuming the new Courthouse is not on site), or use of multi-model paths, whether on foot or by bicycle.

Q: How would this add to the traffic, and what mitigation plans are in the works, particularly given that these two projects would have completion dates around the same time?
A: A traffic impact study is underway and will consider impacts from the Mary's Annexation development. We will keep our communities informed as we have more information.

Q: I was told the county was concerned about the "potential decrease in industrial property values" if located by the airport. Why are they not concerned about OUR neighborhood property values?
A: The County does not own the land at the Airport Industrial Park; it is owned by the City of Corvallis. Justice system facilities do not align with the City's economic development plans for the Airport Park. The City's concern was not centered on property valuation, but preserving City-owned land for economic development.

Q: If Napa County can rebuild their historic courthouse after a destructive earthquake with no cost to residents, why can't Benton?
A: The cost of rebuilding the Napa County Courthouse was primarily covered by insurance, the State of California and the federal government after damage in an earthquake. In Oregon, the State only contributes funds for new courthouse facilities and does not contribute funds to rebuild or add on to historic courthouses. The funding model for repurposing the historic Benton County Courthouse has not been determined, but we will be looking at all possible sources.

Q: If recidivism is a problem, then it would seem that offenders are indeed released into the community. Thus, what would make you think that releasing inmates into/adjacent to Grand Oaks is a good idea?
A: By definition, when adults in custody are released, they are released into the community. Currently, the County releases adults in custody downtown, not far from the public library and residential housing. If a new correctional facility is constructed on either of the proposed suburban sites, the County is committed to providing options for adults in custody on release to get to where they want to go.

Q: If we're planning to bus people anyway, then yes why not pick something out of town?
A: Our preferred option is a campus approach to our justice system facilities, due to the operational and cost efficiencies. Courthouses are sited in the County seat, i.e., Corvallis. We do not expect the correctional facility to be a scar on the landscape – our current jail is in the middle of downtown.

Q: Is a higher incarceration rate better?
A: The goal of the Justice System Improvement Program is not a higher incarceration rate. The goal is to:

- Reduce the rate of recidivism, i.e., repeat offense and incarceration.
- Reduce the rate of failure to appear at Court hearings. Failure to appear results in high cost of staff time and creates an increased risk to community safety.
- To bring the use of cite and release closer to a best practice rate, and eliminate it for repeat offenders.

Q: Please state the distance from an elementary school that a facility such as this needs to be.
A: There are not currently regulations governing the distance between an elementary school and justice system facilities, including a correctional facility.

Q: Rather than building new facilities, can the existing jail, facilities downtown or in the Sunset Research Park be repurposed?
A: We are repurposing the Board of Commissioners Office for use as a Crisis Center. The jail has been remodeled and expanded to the extent possible since it was built in 1977. DLR Group studied repurposing or upgrading the existing jail and concluded it was not structurally or financially feasible. DLR Group also studied repurposing other County facilities, either for the structure or use of the land. These facilities were rejected for various reasons, including displacing existing services, construction limitations, zoning, etc. Other downtown sites were explored, but none met our requirements.

Q: So the fact that utilities have been brought out for a residential neighborhood is a reason to bring the jail here?
A: The proposed west site is zoned Intensive Industrial. There are already utilities on site to serve existing industrial businesses.

Q: The west site is outside of the city limits, who will fund the new bus service to go to it? Or is the plan to direct people into the neighborhood to access a bus stop?
A: The west site is inside Corvallis City limits. The County's objective is to provide a public transit solution, whether extension of existing bus route or creation of a governmental services shuttle, to the justice system campus.

Q: There are no arterial roads from downtown to the proposed west campus on 53rd. Wouldn't it be better for response times and transport needs to locate it on OR 99W?
A: The Sheriff's Office adjusts response routes depending on time of day and traffic conditions.

Drive time to downtown from the proposed south and west sites is 8 and 10 minutes respectively. Access to other parts of the County depends on the starting and ending location. For example, the response time will be quicker from the south location to the City of Monroe, but slower than the west site to Philomath or North Albany. Either suburban site has the potential to reduce some rural response times.

Q: Was this cost estimate obtained during this time 2020-2021? Is it possible we will come down a bit closer to the $25M for the correctional facility for example?
A: DLR Group's estimates indicate that while the rate of construction cost escalation will likely slow, it will not retreat. Looking ahead, it is unlikely the proposed new Correctional Facility will ever cost less, and more likely the cost will continue to climb.

Q: Were any sites in north Corvallis considered? Was anything on 9th even considered?
A: Sites were considered all across Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary, including north Corvallis.

Q: What are the neighborhood lockdown plans when you have an armed escapee?
A: In the unlikely event that an adult in custody escaped the Correctional Facility, the County can activate a reverse 911 system, which would contact residents in the nearby vicinity. Response plans would depend on situational factors. The County, even with its outdated jail, has not had an escape in over 20 years.

Q: What have you done to address the Downtown Business Owner's associations objections to the most reasonable location for these facilities (downtown)?
A: Downtown business owners and associations have not objected to citing justice system facilities downtown, nor has the City of Corvallis.
The County's site selection process considered various sites downtown. All were rejected or abandoned, except the current site (parking area) adjacent to the Board of Commissioners office. That site has not been secured by contract and remains under negotiation. No site downtown was large enough to accommodate a single-level correctional facility (a multi-level facility was deemed operationally cost prohibitive).

Q: What is the plan for when the Bond Measure fails?
A: We will continue to explore contingency plans and alternatives as the November 2022 bond measure approaches.

Q: What is the plan to upgrade the transportation resources to support this facility?
A: We are working to with the City of Corvallis to explore options to provide public transportation to support justice system facilities.

Q: Which elected officials support this proposal? Could you please provide their contact info?
A: All of the commissioners support the Justice System Improvement Program. The final details of the proposal for a bond measure will be decided in spring 2022. Contact information for Benton County Commissioners is available at https://co.benton.or.us/boc/custom-contact-page/board-commissioners

Q: Why are all your choices near the urban growth boundary?
A: The sites under consideration were chosen based on many criteria and where land was available for purchase.

Q: Why are two of the three proposed locations near residential neighborhoods? Why not out by the airport? Why not keep it downtown by renovating space? Why not some other industrial area?
A: A site in the City's Airport Industrial Park was considered. The County does not own the land at the Airport Industrial Park; it is owned by the City of Corvallis.

Justice system facilities do not align with the City's economic development plans for the Airport Industrial Park. There is not another industrial area in Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary that meets the needs of JSIP and offers a viable property. There is not sufficient space downtown, for purchase or renovation, to accommodate a single-level correctional facility (a multi-level facility was deemed operationally cost-prohibitive).

Q: Why do you propose to place these facilities so near GO, Bald Hill and the Fairgrounds? Are there not properties where there is a lower residential population and fewer high-use recreational areas?
A: After an exhaustive search for sites of suitable size and configuration, these two suburban sites were the two identified that the County was able to identify and secure.

Q: Why does it have to be within city boundary?
A: All of the proposed functions/facilities exist within Corvallis city limits today. The importance of locating the proposed new facilities within or immediately adjacent to Corvallis' Urban Growth Boundary is to provide utility services at a reasonable cost. Additionally, the proposed justice facilities are part of a system – that work together – their close proximity supports best practices. Traditionally, Because Corvallis is the Benton County seat, and more than 60% of the County population is located within the city, an urban site provides the best accessibility to potential clients, adults in custody and family members.

Q: Why is funding for the jail, which has been notoriously unsuccessful, tied to funding for a crisis center and homeless shelter we desperately need and want?
A: The Board of Commissioners has not yet determined which facilities to include in the justice system bond measure. The County will establish a Crisis Center regardless of the bond measure. At the same time, a Crisis Center is a critical part of the County's justice system, as is a Correctional Facility. The two facilities are linked by the services they provide, and each is important in creating a justice system for the future based on best practices.

Q: Why is the crisis center ask only $5M, which is 1/10th of the $50m ask for the jail? What does this say about county priorities?
A: The Crisis Center is an important part of the larger criminal justice continuum. The County has made the decision to create the Crisis Center by utilizing existing county property, which significantly decreases the cost of the center. The future Crisis Center will include trauma-informed space to best meet the needs of the individuals being served.

The size of the facility directly impacts the cost of the facility. The Crisis Center will provide approximately 7,000 square feet for care and treatment. This is in comparison to the projected 59,000 square feet for the county corrections facility.

While the Crisis Center will need some safety precautions, safety and security are not the primary focus. Safety is the primary focus for the Correctional Facility. That directly impacts the costs of both facilities.

Q: Why was the donation of the Burger King property downtown turned down by the county?
A: No such offer was made to the County.

Q: Will inmates families be able to visit them easily when the jail is located on a remote bus line?
A: Yes, and more easily than driving or taking public transit to Polk or Wasco Counties.

Q: Will prisoners be released in front of the prison into an area with no resources and very limited transportation? What will the effect of doing this be on bald hill natural area, the fairgrounds, and tailgating/shuttle for OSU football games?
A: Adults in custody may be released at the site, whether to meet a family member or loved one, to catch public transit to another part of Corvallis or the transit center downtown, or to possibly bike or walk to another destination. As with adults in custody who are currently released downtown (a block and a half from the public library), any impact is expected to be minimal and manageable. The County is committed to providing options for adults in custody on release to get to where they want to go.

Q: Will there be emergency sirens at this site that break into the serenity of Bald Hill?
A: Emergency responders of all types use sirens across the county today.

October 13 Virtual Community Meeting Questions and Answers

Q: The criteria eliminated residential zones, but not locations adjacent to residential neighborhoods. How does the criteria address proximity to residential zoning?
A: The first review of all sites eliminated sites zoned Residential or designated Residential in the Comprehensive Plan. Regarding the residential proximity, the ranking criteria included the following: Adjacent to existing residential: No = +1, One side = 0, Two sides = -1. The County understands there are concerns from residents near both proposed sites regarding the siting of a correctional facility near neighborhoods.

Q: Have the impacts on communities outside of Corvallis (Monroe, Alsea, etc.) been included and considered in the location and planning?
A: Yes, the impact on all communities in Benton County is a crucial consideration for the program and the Board of Commissioners. A primary consideration of site selection regarding the impacts on communities outside of Corvallis is the Sheriff Office's access to all points in the County. Specifically, if deputies are dispatched centrally from the Sheriff's Office, rather than on patrol. On the occasions when a centrally dispatched response is necessary, the ease and options by which a deputy can to get to a location is important.

Q: Please explain, in detail, how the sites were originally identified, how they were narrowed down, how property owners were approached, and what contractual obligations property owners and the County currently have, including deadlines and costs.
A: The PowerPoint presentation from the October 13 Community Meeting describes the site selection process. Property owners were approached by either a real estate broker retained by the County, a commissioner-appointed negotiating team, or both. Details on contractual obligations can be obtained by submitting a Public Records Request in writing to County Counsel.

Q: Why are you only discussing 2 locations when my understanding is that there are 3 locations being considered?
A: The County is considering two suburban locations and one downtown location. The suburban locations – known as the west and south sites– are large enough to support a complete justice system campus, including a correctional facility, Sheriff's Office, and new courthouse. The downtown location is smaller and its purchase remains under negotiation. The downtown site could support the proposed new courthouse, but it is not contemplated for either a correctional facility or Sheriff's Office. Note: the final location of the proposed new courthouse has not been determined.

Q: Are the downtown and north sites (also referred to as HP or McFadden) still in consideration? If not, then why?
A: A downtown site is contemplated for proposed new courthouse only. Regarding a north site, Benton County currently has letters of intent (LOI) to purchase two properties. Those two properties are the focus of our current community outreach and comment. While we have LOIs for those two properties, we are not locked in to one or both properties. If another property becomes available that might fit our justice system improvement objectives, we owe it to the tax payers of this county to at least explore its viability right up until the time we purchase a parcel of land. The County is engaging in exploratory discussions with a representative of McFadden Ranch, LLC, but doesn't not have an LOI for a north property at this time.

Q: Can we see a map of the original top 10?
A: Please see the Site Summary Analysis on the JSIP website.

Q: What are the next steps and timing for the selection of the site?
A: The commissioners hope to make a site selection decision by mid- to late-November. The commissioners will continue to consider existing and new comparative information on the proposed sites, as well as public feedback, to reach a decision.

Q: If the North site meets the criteria better than the other sites, why not use a tool like eminent domain to purchase it?
A: The Board of Commissioners prefers to acquire real estate through a negotiated process.

Q: Please provide a map of the locations.
A: Please see September 8 presentation, slides 16-18.

Q: Is there any information on what this facility might look like, size of footprint, area of pavement, etc?
A: The Justice System Improvement Program is currently in the Predesign Phase, which does not include detailed architectural design. The Design Phase will follow the success of the 2022 bond measure and will include additional rounds of public engagement. Please see the Concept Test Fits document for examples of modern justice system architecture and shows sizing of the proposed facilities and paring relative to the proposed sites. However, the test fits are **not** designs or site plans; their intent is simply to validate how the proposed facilities and supporting parking could "fit" on the site.

Q: Can you share your flood analysis with the community?
A: The analysis is as follows: Neither site is in a floodplain, nor immune from adverse effects of a 1:100-year flood event, as described in FEMA's flood risk ratings. As such, the criteria used to evaluate the sites is more practical: What is the likelihood of flood event cutting off access (likely = 0, unlikely = 1)?

The Mary's River confluence is known to flood, and relatively frequently. On flooding, the proposed south site is isolated from points north of the river, except possibly by a circuitous route via Airport Road to the west and north. The same is not true for the proposed west site. The railway underpass floods relatively frequently, but Reservoir Road, in conjunction with other arterials, can be used to reach points west and south with relative ease. So, then the question is, would flooding at 53rd and Harrison cut-off points to the north of the west site? On checking with Public Works, that intersection hasn't been rendered impassible, not even during the 1996 flood event, so the conclusion is, based on the criteria, a flood event (any flood, not just FEMA's 1:100-year event) is less likely to cut off the west site than the south.

Q: Did you consider noise and light pollution impacts for the different locations? In relation to both people and endangered species in the Bald Hill Natural area?
A: Noise and light are considered as part of the permitting process. The County anticipates both noise and light impacts to be minimal. Overall, the proposed facilities require no excessive lighting. For example, there will not be searchlights or anything designed that is beyond the lighting required by code for walking paths, parking lots, and door entries. Noise will be limited to the occasional siren. Emergency responders of all types use sirens across the County today.

Q: Will you share the data from the site selection criteria with all of us, including the scores?
A: Please see the Viability Matrix Starter with CBD.

Q: Please explain how the County developed the matrix for evaluating the costs and benefits of each location. Why and how were the weights assigned? Why were the variables only considered only on a 0/1 measure?
A: The County developed the site selection criteria based on project goals and DLR Group's extensive knowledge siting and developing justice system facilities. DLR Group conducted extensive stakeholder interviews, which helped inform the criteria, and reviewed the criteria with the program's Operations Team, Community and Technical Advisory Committees, and the commissioners. The criteria is scored on a 0 to 1 scale because it functions as a way to simply count the positive attributes of a site. Attributes are weighted based on the priorities expressed by the commissioners.

Q: You have stated that Sheriff's deputies will typically respond from where they are deployed and not from the facility. Based on that, why is response time a major criteria in your site selection?
A: Sheriff's response access (to all parts of the county), and response time to downtown, are two of many criteria used to rank the sites. Response time to downtown is essentially the same for both the south and west sites, so it's not a differentiator. However, Sheriff's response access, is a differentiator, with the west site more centrally located than south relative to County population centers. Sheriff's deputies routinely patrol the County which may alleviate some pressure on the Sheriff's Office regarding response times, but it doesn't erase the importance of access, and especially in situations where specialized or augmented response is necessary.

Q: Given that all 3 options are unpopular with neighbors, how are the cost of the project and the relative wealth of the various communities weighed in the decision-making process?
A: Currently, there are three proposed sites for justice system facilities: two suburban sites – known as the south and west sites – and a smaller site downtown that could accommodate the proposed new courthouse. Based on the public engagement conducted to date, the County is not aware the proposed downtown site is unpopular with neighbors. That said, the cost and acquisition and development of all proposed sites is a factor in site selection, as all Benton County residents will share the cost through their property taxes. Similarly, the overall cost of the bond measure is a consideration, one which the Commissioners will have to consider relative to a bond package next year. The relative wealth of the various communities is not a consideration relative to site selection, and was not part of site selection criteria.

Q: How are adults in custody being released and safety issues being addressed? Have you assessed the pathway released prisoners will take from jail back to downtown?
A: Adults in custody may be released at the site, whether to meet a family member or loved one, to catch public transit to another part of Corvallis or the transit center downtown, or to possibly bike or walk to another destination. As with adults in custody who are currently released downtown (a block and a half from the public library and with easy access to the OSU campus), any impact is expected to be minimal and manageable. The County is committed to providing options for adults in custody on release to get to where they want to go.

Q: The community of South Corvallis has been going through an urban renewal process. Will the location create complications for this? And will the community continue to be an inviting location where people stop and feel comfortable?
A: The City of Corvallis' Community Development Department has been very supportive of developing the proposed south site for justice system facilities. Were the south site developed, the County would become the "anchor" tenant, meaning the County would fund the building of roads and other infrastructure that would support additional development.

In terms of compatibility, the current jail and Sheriff's Office are downtown, across the street from one another, and just a couple of blocks from restaurants, bike shops, the library, and City Hall, so no complications are anticipated. The architecture and land- and hardscaping will render the facilities virtually indistinguishable from other modern office buildings. Additionally, the County is studying its release and transportation options of adults in custody, to assure it is done in a safe, humane, and equitable manner.

Q: Given what we know about the criminal justice system and the specific nature of the types of people who commit crimes in Benton County, please explain why the building of such a large the jail is necessary. Why is the funding of the jail the half of the bond ask?
A: Please see pages 92-93 of the Assessment, which DLR Group updated as part of its Predesign work. The 120-bed recommendation is an approximation, not an absolute.

Q: How much of our county resources go to mental health verses "traditional policing?"
A: From the 2021-23 Biennium Budget, Behavioral Health's budget totals +/- $24.3 million. In comparison, the Sheriff's Office budget totals +/- $38.4 million, of which +/- $33.7 million is attributed to Patrol and Investigation, Corrections, and Parole and Probation.

Q: Community member was curious about the bed ratio to population, compared to neighboring communities.
A:

2018 Data

County	Beds	Population	Beds per Capita
Yamhill	259	106,367	0.24350%
Polk	195	84,992	0.22943%
Linn	230	127,451	0.18046%
Lincoln	161	49,224	0.32708%
Lane	407	378,549	0.10752%
Benton	40	92,442	0.04327%

Q: Have you factored in the increased cost of staffing a jail with 120 beds and is it sustainable?
A: The operational cost of housing an adult in custody (AIC) is essentially the same as housing an AIC out-of-county (including transportation expense) – about $100 per day. The County will incur additional expenses related to in-custody treatment and rehabilitative programs it offers. The cost of programs is not insignificant (as outlined in the Benton County Criminal Justice Assessment, January 2019), but well within the County's budget to provide them in a sustainable manner.

Q: Can you share the current rate of Cite and Release Arrests the Sheriff's Department currently makes?
A: As of the week of October 18, deputies issued 600 citations in lieu of custody year to date. Through all of last year, the Sheriff's Office issued 608 of the same citations. Currently, I have directed the jail to only accept A and B felonies, and mandatory arrests (domestic violence, restraining order violations, protective order violations, no contact violations). I have directed Captain DeVaney to get us to 22 occupied beds in NORCOR (if possible). As our facility allows, we can adjust and take some of the PPS (post-prison supervision) who have absconded, failed to comply, etc… I recently met with Municipal Court Judge Blake (Corvallis, Philomath, Monroe) regarding a request he had made regarding taking municipal court FTA's into the facility. At this point, it's just not an option. - Answered by Sheriff Van Arsdall

Q: If you weren't under a deadline, would some of the other sites that have been presented at various meetings still be on the table? If so, have you considered postponing the decision to secure a site without as many development challenges as either the west or south site?
A: The suburban sites currently and formerly under consideration all made the County's top-5 list. Sites that previously dropped off the list were the result of factors that were not time dependent. The current

decision timeline has been extended to the end of November for consideration of all information and options in advance of making a site selection decision.

Q: What is the deadline that everyone keeps referring to?
A: The deadline refers to a site selection decision. Both the proposed south and west sites are secured by Letters of Intent which require the County to enter into a Purchase and Sale agreement in December or forfeit its purchase option.

Q: Does the County have a plan to reach the mostly low-income residents immediately surrounding the west site?
A: Yes. As public engagement continues in 2022, the communications team will be making concerted efforts to connect with all communities through a variety of public engagement strategies including information sessions and personal conversations.

Q: What was the target number of citizens in South Corvallis/ West Hills intended to be "aware" of the possible siting of a jail complex nearby?
A: Public engagement was not specific to the West Hills Area or South Corvallis. It was intended to reach as many people as possible across the County through small group conversations, speaking engagements and community meetings. In all, the County conducted more than 30 engagement sessions.

Q: How is the known congestion and increase of congestion expected (data/statistically supported) with growth in the area been considered with regards to accessibility of the west site?
A: Please see the Correctional Facility Traffic Analysis.

Q: Have the combined storm/sewer issues with the west site been accounted for in the site selection?
A: DLR Group and the County have considered both storm water run-off, sewer connection, and other utilities for each of the proposed suburban sites.

Q: Making the Courthouse ADA compliant isn't a priority?
A: Making the proposed new courthouse ADA compliant is not only a priority, but required by building code. It is a primary driver for a new courthouse, and a major shortcoming of the existing historic Benton County Courthouse.

Q: When you calculate the cost, is the impact on property values considered or it is simply assumed away?
A: Please see the Correctional Facility Establishments and Neighborhood Housing Characteristics, by Kelly McGeever, 2018, which supports property values are not negatively impacted by proximity to correctional facilities.

Q: How are you contracting out beds? I'd like to know the cost, frequency and the process.
A: Both Polk and Linn Counties hold pretrial adults in custody (AIC). Each of those beds cost $95.00 per day. In Polk County, we pay for 10 beds whether they are full or not, so we always keep them full. We switch out subjects in Polk County due to court appearances. Linn County only houses for us every so often in an emergency situation, or an AIC has a specific issue with one of our staff. (We had an on-call deputy being stalked by one of AICs, so he was held at Linn.)

NORCOR houses our sentenced AICs and can house pretrial AICs with the approval of their attorney. At this time, there are no pretrial AICs at NORCOR. These beds are $73.56 per day for the first 22 beds. We pay for those whether they are full or not. After the first 22, we pay $52.54 per bed for up to 40 beds. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our AICs house out of county only number in the teens and sometimes single digits due to courts not operating at full capacity.

We transport to NORCOR twice per week. Those sent to NORCOR either turn themselves in at the Benton County Jail, or are post-prison supervision subjects who are arrested and then sanctioned by their parole officer. Drug treatment Court sanctions are also sent to NORCOR if the duration is long enough for the transport. - Answered by Sheriff Van Arsdall

Q: What is the cost difference between the west and south sites and these other potential sites? How does that break down per household?
A: The acquisition and development cost difference between the proposed west and south sites is an approximate $5-10 million dollars more for the south site. Using an average of $7.5 million, it's an increase of about $0.06 per $1,000 of assessed value, or $15 per year more for a home with an assessed value of $250,000.

Q: When the project comes out on the ballot to vote on, will the detailed impacts to our tax bill be included so people are fully informed on the cost?
A: Yes. Oregon form SEL-801, Notice of Measure Election, must be filed with the County Clerk's Office to put a local tax measure on a ballot. This form requires the County to explain tax impacts should the measure pass.

Q: Wouldn't a larger facility require additional personnel to operate? Where is the operational/maintenance plan?
A: A larger correctional facility will require additional staff. DLR Group estimates an additional 18 staff for 24x7 staffing, at a cost of about $2.3 million annually. At the same time, the County will realize savings in excess of $3.4 million annually by not renting the equivalent beds from NORCOR and Polk County. The JSIP Program Manager and Benton County Chief Financial Officer are working on the operations plan for the proposed justice system facilities and supporting programs this winter ('21-'22), knowing the operational changes won't take effect for two additional biennium budget planning cycles over the next 5 years.

Q: I am under the impression that the correctional facility is supposed to be "more than a jail" by providing programs. Are these intertwined with the mental health facility?
A: The proposed behavioral health services in the correctional facility will not be directly intertwined with the Crisis Center. The services in the correctional facility will include both mental health and substance use disorder treatment, in addition to other treatment services, in an effort to reduce recidivism.

Services at the Crisis Center may be used as an alternative to jail for individuals experiencing behavioral health crisis who are needing support and services and will not be adequately supported in the correctional facility setting. Additionally, the Crisis Center can be a supportive transition for adults in custody who are being released and integrated back into the community who may have behavioral health needs. The Crisis Center can support referrals for housing and assistance with accessing insurance benefits, applying for services, and connecting to ongoing care. - Answered by Deputy Director for Behavioral Health, Dannielle Brown

Advantages of May 2023 Bond Measure (versus November 2022)

- CW: Property tax bills arrive a week in advance of November elections
- CW: General elections are tough on tax measures, unless they are for schools/children
- CW: General elections (especially midterm elections) have many issues competing for public attention; all 435 House seats and 34/100 Senate seats will be contested in November 2022
- 45,043 ballots cast (77%) in Nov. ‘18 General Election, versus 22,113 ballots (38%) in May ’17 Special Election; fewer voter communications resources required in special election
- Additional time for site selection, research, and engagement

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Disadvantages of May 2023 (or Nov. '22) Bond Measure – Cost Escalation

From DLR Group's current cost consultant, based on previous May 2022 bond measure date, estimated escalation is as follows (based on construction start date with 12-15 months design):

- April 2023 start (1-year delay): **+12.7%**

For each additional year add the following to 12.7% (rates are not cumulative):

- April 2024 start (2-year delay): **+6.5%**
- April 2025 start (3-year delay): **+13.3%**
- April 2026 start (4-year delay): **+20.4%**
- April 2027 start (5-year delay): **+27.9%**
- April 2028 start (6-year delay): **+35.8%**

19.2% with May 2022 bond measure

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How Cost Escalation Translates to Proposed JSIP Facilities

	Approx. Cost May 2022 Bond Measure (Million)	Approx. Cost May 2023 Bond Measure (Million)
Correctional Facility (120-beds)	$50	$59.6
Crisis Center (phase II)	$2 – 5	$2.4 – $6
New Courthouse/DA Offices	$35	$41.7
Sheriff and Emergency Operations	$16 - $25	$19 – $29.8
Historic Courthouse	$0 - $20	$0 - $23.8
	$103 - $135 Million	$123 - $161 Million

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Other Disadvantages of May 2023 Bond Measure

- Philomath School District 17J will offer its local option levy renewal on the same ballot (initial inquiry indicates 17J is not willing to change its date)

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